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VOYAGE TO LOO-CHOO.

LONDON:
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PARTING SCENE at LOO CHOO.

VOYAGE

TO

COREA,

AND THE

ISLAND OF LOO-CHOO.

BY CAPTAIN BASIL HALL,

ROYAL NAVY, F. R. S. LOND. & EDIN.

A NEW EDITION,

WITH PLATES.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1820.

BIBLIOTHECA
REGIA
MONACENSIS.

TO

CAPTAIN SIR MURRAY MAXWELL,

Companion of the Bath,

TO WHOSE

ABILITY IN CONDUCTING THIS VOYAGE,

ZEAL IN GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT TO EVERY INQUIRY,

SAGACITY IN DISCOVERING

THE DISPOSITION OF THE NATIVES,

AND ADDRESS

IN GAINING THEIR CONFIDENCE AND GOOD WILL,

IS TO BE ATTRIBUTED

WHATEVER MAY BE FOUND INTERESTING

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES,

THIS WORK

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of this work, which gives a full account of the Voyage to Corea and Loo-choo, is divided into a Narrative,—an Appendix, containing charts and various nautical and scientific notices,—and a Vocabulary of the Loo-choo language.

The present edition is confined to the narrative alone, to the exclusion of all technical and other details, not calculated to interest the general reader.

In drawing up the narrative, from journals kept on the spot, I have derived material assist-

ance from notes written by Lieutenant H. J. Clifford, of the royal navy, an officer who voluntarily accompanied me from England; and to whose praise-worthy industry I am also indebted for the copious Vocabulary which is printed at the end of the quarto edition.

The plates are from drawings by Mr. William Havell, the eminent artist who accompanied the embassy to China, from sketches on the spot, by Mr. C. W. Browne, midshipman of the Alceste.

A general chart has been added, showing the track of the ships during the voyage described in the narrative. But the professional reader is referred to the Appendix in the first edition, where the charts are given on a large scale, accompanied by hydrographical notices.

In the twenty-third volume of the Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses an account is given of the

island of Loo-choo by Pere Gaubil, translated from a Chinese memoir. Whether this be accurate or otherwise, we are not qualified to judge, as our means of gaining information were unfortunately very limited. What is attempted, therefore, in this volume, is by no means an account of the countries we visited, but merely a faithful narrative of the events which occurred to ourselves, as well as what actually fell under our own observation during our intercourse with the singular inhabitants of that unfrequented quarter of the globe.

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VOYAGE

TO

THE WEST COAST OF COREA,

AND THE

GREAT LOO CHOO

ISLAND.

CHAPTER I.

Circumstances which led to this Voyage—H. M. S. Alceste and Lyra leave the Yellow Sea, and sail to the Eastward on a Voyage of Discovery—Examine Sir James Hall's Group on the Coast of Corea—Unsociable Character of the Natives—Hutton's Island—Anchor near the Main Land—Are visited by a venerable Corean Chief—Objections made to Strangers landing—Distress of the Chief—Landing effected—Character of this Chief—Departure from Basil's Bay—Pass immense Clusters of Islands—Murray's Sound—Description of a Corean Village—Magnificent View from the Summit of a high Peak—Interview with the Coreans—Peculiarities of their Character—Language—Erroneous geographical Position of this Coast—Leave Corea.

The embassy to China, under the Right Hon. Lord Amherst, left England on the 9th of February, 1816, in his Majesty's ship Alceste, Captain Murray Maxwell, C. B.; accompanied by his Majesty's sloop Lyra. The ships entered

the China seas, by the Straits of Sunda, early in June, and having proceeded to the Yellow Sea, landed the embassy at the mouth of the Pei-ho river, near Pekin, on the 9th of August in the same year.

As it was certain that several months must elapse before the embassy could re-embark, it was determined by Captain Maxwell to employ the interval in examining some parts of the coasts in that unfrequented part of the world. Before quitting the Yellow Sea, therefore, he sailed along the northern side in the Alceste; and sent the Lyra to explore the Gulf of Petchelee, which lies to the southward.

This hasty survey being completed, the Alceste and Lyra sailed to the eastward, along the parallel of 38 degrees of north latitude; till the morning of the 1st of September, when the land was descried at day-light at a considerable distance, in an eastern direction. Having stood towards it, we were at nine o'clock near three high islands, which differed in appearance from the country we had left; being wooded to the top; and cultivated in the lower parts; not, however, in horizontal terraces as at some of the places we had lately visited in

China. We proceeded to the south side of this group of islands, and anchored about noon in a fine bay, at the distance of two or three miles from the shore. Shortly after anchoring, a boat came towards us from a village near us, having five or six natives on board: they stopped when within fifty yards of the Lyra, and looking at us with an air of curiosity and distrust, paid no attention to the signs which were made to induce them to come alongside. They expressed no alarm, however, when we went to them in our boat; and when we rowed towards the shore, they followed us till we landed near the village.

The inhabitants came in a body to meet us, forming an odd collection, very different in many respects from any we had before seen; their colour was a deep copper, and their appearance forbidding, and somewhat savage: some of them were marked with the small pox. Some men, who appeared to be superior to the rest, were distinguished by a hat, the brim of which was nearly three feet in diameter, and the crown, which was about nine inches high, and scarcely large enough to admit the top of the head, was shaped like a sugar-loaf with the small end cut off. The texture of this strange hat was of a fine open work,

in appearance not unlike the dragon-fly's wing; it appeared to be made of horse-hair varnished over; it was fastened under the chin by a band strung with large beads, for the most part black and white, but occasionally red or yellow. Some of the old men wore stiff gauze caps over their hair, which was formed into a high conical knot or twist on the top of the head. The dress of these islanders consisted of loose wide trowsers, with a sort of frock reaching nearly to the knees, made of a coarse open grass cloth: on their feet they wore neat straw sandals. They were of the middle size, remarkably well made, and robust looking. At first they expressed some surprise on examining our clothes, but afterwards took very little interest in any thing belonging to us. Their chief and constant anxiety evidently was to get rid of us as soon as possible. This inhospitable sentiment they expressed in a manner too obvious to be mistaken; for, when we wished to enter the village, they first made motions for us to go the other way; and finding that we persevered, seized us rudely by the arms and pushed us off. Being very desirous to conciliate them, we showed no impatience at this uncivil treatment; but our forbearance had no effect in rendering their manners more courteous;

so, after a number of vain attempts to ingratiate ourselves, and to make ourselves understood, we gave up the point, and went away not much pleased with our reception. A Chinese servant *, who accompanied us, was of no use as an interpreter, for he could not read what the Coreans wrote for him, though in the Chinese character; and of their spoken language he did not understand a word.

On leaving these unsociable villagers, we went to the top of the highest peak on the island, the ascent being easy by a winding foot-path. From this elevated spot we saw a number of islands to the eastward, and the main land at a great distance beyond them. We found the top of the hill covered with soft grass, and sweet-smelling shrubs; and the air, which had been of a suffocating heat in the low grounds, being here cool and refreshing, we were tempted to sit down on this spot to our pic-nic dinner. We afterwards returned by the other side of the hill; but we could find no path; and the surface being rocky and steep, and covered with a thick brush-wood, we were not a little scratched and bruised before we

* Belonging to the embassy; left behind by accident at the Pei-ho river.

reached a road running along the northern face of the hill. By following this, we came to a spot from whence we were enabled to look down upon the village, without being ourselves perceived by the natives. The women, who had deserted the village on our landing, had by this time returned; some of them, who were beating rice in wooden mortars, had children tied on their backs; the motion caused by this operation looked at once ludicrous and painful, for it seemed as if the little things would be shaken to pieces: habit, no doubt, had reconciled them to this rude cradle, for they appeared to be all asleep. Suddenly the women quitted their work, threw down their mallets, and ran off to their huts, like rabbits in a warren; while we were in vain trying to guess the cause of this movement, we saw one of the ship's boats row round the point of land adjacent to the village, which explained the cause of the alarm. After remaining for some time in expectation of seeing the women come out again, we came down to the village, which the natives now permitted us to pass through. On this occasion one of the gentlemen of our party saw, for an instant, a woman at no great distance; he had just time to ascertain that her feet were of the

natural size, and not cramped according to the barbarous practice of China.

This village consisted of forty houses, rudely constructed of reeds plastered over with mud; the roofs, strangely mis-shapen, and badly thatched with reeds, held down by straw ropes. The huts were not disposed in streets, but lay scattered about without order, neatness, or cleanliness; every open space being occupied by piles of dirt, and pools of muddy water. The valley in which this comfortless village was situated was, however, pretty enough, though not wooded; the hills forming it being of an irregular shape, and covered at top with grass and sweet-scented flowers; the lower parts were cultivated with millet, buck-wheat, a kind of French bean, and tobacco, which last was growing in great abundance; and here and there we saw a young oak-tree.

We saw bullocks and poultry; but the natives would not exchange them for our money, nor for any thing we had to offer. They refused dollars when offered as a present; and, indeed, appeared to hold in no estimation any thing which was shown to them, except wine glasses; yet even these they were unwilling to receive. One of the principal men appeared particularly pleased with

a glass, and, after a good deal of persuasion, he accepted it; but, in about five minutes afterwards, he, and another man to whom a tumbler had been given, came back and insisted upon restoring the presents; he then, without waiting for further persuasion, returned to the village, leaving with us only one man, who waited till all the rest were out of sight, and then accepted one of the glasses with much eagerness.

These people had a haughty carriage, with an air of composure and indifference about them; and an absence of curiosity, which struck us as being very remarkable. Sometimes when we had succeeded, by means of signs and drawings, in expressing the nature of a question, they treated it with derision and insolence. On one occasion, I was anxious to buy a rake made of reeds, which appeared to me curious, and succeeded with no small trouble in explaining my wish to the owner, one of the lowest class of villagers; on seeing what I wished, he laughed good humouredly; but immediately afterwards seized the rake which was in my hand, and gave it a violent push towards me with a disdainful fling of the arm, accompanying this rude gesticulation by words, which seemed to imply a desire to give us any

thing upon condition of our going away. Their ingenuity was exerted in various ways to express this earnest desire for our departure. One man held up a piece of paper like a sail, and then blowing upon it in the direction of the wind, pointed to the ships; thereby denoting that the wind was fair, and that we had only to set sail and leave the island. The children kept out of our reach at first, but before we went away, their fears had, in some degree, subsided, for the boys accompanied us to some distance from the village, seemingly much more diverted with our appearance than their seniors were.

Captain Maxwell named these islands Sir James Hall's group, in compliment to the President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. They lie in longitude 124° 50° E. and latitude 37° 50′. N.

At eight o'clock in the evening we weighed and stood to the southward; but as the coast was quite unknown, we kept so much off shore during the night, that in the morning of the 2nd no land was in sight. We stood to the eastward during the day, but not having daylight enough to get in with the coast, it became necessary to anchor for the night, though in deep water.

3d of September.—We got under weigh early, and sailed to the eastward towards some vast clusters of islands extending as far as the eye could reach, both to the southward and northward, at the distance of six or seven leagues from the main land. By two o'clock we were close to the outermost cluster of islands; and the passages between them appearing clear, we sailed through and anchored inside. While passing one of these islands in the ships, at no great distance, it appeared to be so curiously formed, that, on anchoring, we went in the boats to examine its geological structure more minutely *. While we were thus engaged, the natives had assembled in a crowd on the edge of the cliff above us; they did not seem at all pleased with our occupation of breaking their rocks, for, from the moment we landed, they never ceased to indicate by shouts, screams, and all kinds of angry signs, that the sooner we quitted the island the better. The cliff being 200 feet high, and nearly perpendicular, it was fortunate for us that they confined themselves to signs and clamour, and did not

* For an account of this island see 1st edition, p. 8; and Appendix, p. cxxiv.

think of enforcing their wishes by a shower of stones.

As soon as we had completed our investigation of an exceedingly curious junction of granite and schistus, we went round in the boats to a small bay where there was good landing. Here we were met by the natives, who addressed several long speeches to us in a very loud tone of voice; to which we could only reply in English, that our wish was merely to look at the island, without interfering with any body; at the same time we signified our intentions in a more intelligible way, by proceeding up a foot-path to the brow of a hill. This movement the natives did not seem to relish in the least, for they made use of a sign which, though we could not determine exactly to whom it referred, was sufficiently expressive of their alarm and anxiety. It consisted in drawing their fans across their throats, and sometimes across ours; as if to signify that our going on would lead to heads being cut off; but whether they or we were to be the sufferers, was not very clear. It was suggested by one of our party that they dreaded being called to account by their own chiefs for permitting us to land. All these signs, however, did not prevent

our advancing till we had reached the brow of the hill to which the path led; from this place we had a view of a village at the distance of half a mile, of a much better appearance than that above described. Trees were interspersed among the houses, which were pleasantly situated at the bottom of a little cove or bay, with fishing-boats at anchor near the shore. We explained readily enough that our wish was to go to the village; but their anxiety to stop us increasing every moment, we desisted from any further attempts to advance; and turned back again, to the infinite satisfaction of the natives.

The dress of these people was a loose white robe, cloth shoes, and a few wore the broad hats before described; most of them had their hair tied in a high conical knot on the top of the head, but by others it was allowed to fly loose, which gave them a wild appearance. Some confined the short hair by a small gauze band with a star on one side, which formed along with the top-knot, rather a becoming head-dress. Their beards and whiskers, which apparently no razor had ever touched; their fans and long tobacco-pipes; their strange language and manners, gave an exceedingly grotesque air to the whole group. They crowded

about us, and by deafening shouts manifested their surprise and delight at the form and texture of our clothes. No sooner, however, was a watch produced, than they disregarded every thing else, and anxiously entreated to be allowed to examine it closely. It was evidently the first thing of the kind they had ever seen, for, while watching the second-hand, they looked as if they thought it alive. After examining the watch, they proceeded to inspect the seals and keys: with the use of seals they showed themselves acquainted by pressing them on their hands, so as to cause an impression. While they were thus intently occupied, their attention was drawn away from the watch by some one of our party heedlessly firing a musket, upon which they all drew back several paces, in very evident alarm.

After amusing ourselves in this manner for some time, we walked back to the boats, to the great joy of the natives, who encouraged us by all the means in their power to hasten our departure. They caught hold of our hands, and helped us over the slippery stones on the beach; and, on perceiving one of the boats aground, several of them, in their anxiety to get rid of us, threw off their clothes, and jumped into the water

to push her off. This afforded us an opportunity of observing the remarkable symmetry and firmness of their limbs, while their long hair being allowed to flow about their naked necks and shoulders, rendered their appearance truly savage. During this visit we saw no women; but the children came round us without showing any symptoms of fear or constraint. The people of this island were, upon the whole, less repulsive and surly than our acquaintance on Sir James Hall's group; although they have a singularly disagreeable custom of speaking in a loud tone of voice, amounting almost to a shout. Captain Maxwell named this island after the late Dr. Hutton, the celebrated geologist.

4th of September.—During all last night it remained perfectly calm. At nine o'clock in the morning we got under weigh with a fine sea breeze, and stood in shore, leaving on both hands many well cultivated islands. The main land seemed populous, judging from the number of large villages which we passed, and the extent of the cultivation, which rises a considerable way up the sides of the mountains. Our object this morning was to discover some safe anchoring place in the main land; but we were obliged to coast along

for a considerable distance, before any opening appeared. About three o'clock we sailed round a point of land and discovered a bay, which, at first sight, promised shelter; but the water proving too shallow even for the Lyra, we were obliged to anchor far out, in five fathoms. The natives assembled in crowds on the point, and shouted to us as we passed by, apparently in anger at our approaching so near their coast.

This bay, which is about four miles in diameter, is skirted by large villages, built amongst fine trees, and is surrounded by a highly cultivated country, forming upon the whole a scene of considerable beauty.

As soon as the Alceste had anchored, Captain Maxwell, Mr. Clifford, and I, rowed towards the nearest village in the bay. On our approach we observed a great bustle among the inhabitants on the shore, as well as in the boats riding at anchor off the village. The people on the beach hastily jumped into their canoes; whilst those in the large boats weighed anchor, and pulled towards us with so much expedition, that their fleet met us before we could get near the landing-place. Every boat was ornamented with numerous flags

and streamers, and was crowded with people. One boat being distinguished from the rest by a large blue umbrella planted on the middle of the deck, we steered towards her, on the supposition that this great umbrella must needs be an emblem of rank; an opinion in which we were further confirmed by the sound of music, which played on board this boat alone. On coming closer, we beheld a fine patriarchal figure seated in state under the umbrella; his full white beard covered his breast, and reached below his middle; his robe or mantle, which was of blue silk, and of an immense size, flowed about him in a magnificent style: his hat measured three feet across the brim: his sword was suspended from his waist by a small belt; and in his hand he carried a slender black rod tipped with silver, about a foot and a half long, with a small leather thong at one end, and a piece of black crape tied to the other.

As this was evidently the chief of the party, we pulled alongside, and went from our boats into his: he received us with much politeness; but after the first salutations were over, looked dissatisfied at our having quitted our boats; we accordingly returned, and from thence carried on the conference. While we were endeavouring

to explain our wishes about landing, we observed that the other boats gradually separated from one another, and began to form in a close circle round us. Apprehending treachery, we prepared our arms, and pushed off to a little distance. The old gentleman, perceiving this movement, looked about very innocently to discover the cause of our alarm; and at length being made aware by our signs of what had disconcerted us, he commanded all the boats to go round to the other side. We now remained a considerable time without being able to make ourselves understood; for the Chinese whom we had with us was quite ignorant of their language. We endeavoured, by pointing to the shore, to signify our desire to land; while the old Chief, by corresponding signs, expressed his wish to go to the ships. As he persisted in this, we thought it best to indulge him, and accordingly rowed to the Lyra, which lay nearer to the shore than the Alceste. When the Chief's boat came within ten yards of the brig, they let go an anchor, and threw a rope on board her, by which they drew the boat alongside in a very seaman-like style. The old man did not find it an easy matter to get up the ship's side, being greatly

encumbered with his splendid robes; he succeeded at length, and was no sooner on the deck than we were crowded with the natives, who clambered on board on all sides. Some climbed up the rigging, so as to overlook the quarter-deck; others perched themselves on the poop; and a continued line was formed along the hammock netting, from one end of the brig to the other.

As the evening was fine, it was thought best to entertain the venerable Chief in the open air, rather than expose him to the trouble of going down to the cabin; which, indeed, we had reason to fear would prove too small for the party. Chairs were accordingly placed upon the deck; but the Chief made signs that he could not sit on a chair, nor would he consent for a time to use his mat, which had been brought on board by one of his attendants. He seemed embarrassed and displeased, which we could not at the time account for, though it has since occurred to us that he objected to the publicity of the conference. At length, however, he did sit down on his mat, and began talking to us with great gravity and composure, without appearing in the smallest degree sensible that we did not understand a single

COREAN CHIEF dictating a LETTER.

word he uttered. We of course could not think of interrupting him, but allowed him to talk on at his leisure. When his oration was concluded, he paused for our reply; which we accordingly made with equal gravity in English: upon which he betrayed great impatience; being provoked at his harangue having been lost upon us; but supposing that although we could not speak the Corean language, we could at least read the Chinese character, he called to his secretary, and began to dictate a letter. The secretary sat down before him with all due formality, and having rubbed his cake of ink upon a stone, drawn forth his pen, and arranged a long roll of paper upon his knee, began the writing, which was at length completed, partly from the directions of the Chief, and partly from his own ideas, aided also occasionally by the suggestions of the by-standers. The written part was then torn off from the scroll and handed to the Chief, who delivered it to us with the utmost confidence of its being understood: so that his mortification and disappointment were extreme on perceiving how much he had over-rated our acquirements*.

* In China, Japan, Corea, and the islands in the adjacent seas, the spoken languages are different from one another: the written lan-

A debate now appeared to take place between the Chief and his followers, as to the mode of communicating with us: meanwhile, as we ourselves were equally at a loss, we became anxious to relieve the old man's embarrassment, by showing him all the attention in our power: we so far

guage, on the contrary, is the same in all. Thus a native of China is unintelligible to a Corean, or Japanese, while he is speaking; but they mutually understand one another when their thoughts are expressed in writing. The cause of this may be thus explained. We in Europe form an idea in the mind, and this we express by certain sounds, which differ in different countries: these sounds are committed to writing by means of the letters of the alphabet, which are merely symbols of sounds; and, consequently, a writing in Europe is unintelligible to every one, who is ignorant of the spoken language in which it happens to be written. The Chinese and the other natives in these seas have, on the contrary, no alphabet; no symbols of sounds; their ideas are committed to writing at once without the intervention of sound, and their *characters* may therefore be called symbols of ideas. Now, as the same *characters* are adopted in all these countries to express the same ideas, it is clear that the writings of any one country will be perfectly intelligible to the people of all the others, although their spoken languages may not be at all understood.

The case of the Arabic numerals in Europe furnishes a ready illustration of this symbolical language. There is nothing in the symbols 1, 2, 3, &c. by which their pronunciation can be ascertained when presented to the eye; yet they communicate meaning independent of sound, and are respectively intelligible to the inhabitants of the different countries of Europe; while, at the same time, the sounds by which an inhabitant of one European country distinguishes the written symbols 1, 2, 3, &c. do not convey any meaning at all to those who inhabit the other countries, using the same symbols.

succeeded as to put him into good humour, by giving him some cherry brandy, and distributing rum to his people.

During the time that these attempts at explanation were going on, the crowd of natives increased; and their curiosity became so great, that they pressed round us in a way not at all agreeable; while some of them roved all over the ship, and appeared highly entertained with every thing they saw. The Chief himself, however, did not appear at ease, but continued giving directions to his officers and people about him with an air of impatience. He more than once ordered them all into their boats, but as soon as his back was turned, they jumped on board again. One man persevered in climbing over the hammocks, close to the Chief, to see what was going on. The noise made to keep him back attracted the Chief's attention, who immediately gave orders to one of the attendants for his being taken away and placed in confinement.

The persons forming the suite of the Chief were dressed nearly in the same manner as himself, excepting that their robes were white, and did not contain such a profusion of cloth. They wore the large hats; wide trowsers tied above the ancle;

and cotton shoes turned up a little at the toe. The immediate attendants, who seemed to be soldiers, were differently clothed: over a loose pink frock with wide sleeves, they wore another which fitted closer, and this was without sleeves; the corners being tucked up like the skirts of some military uniforms: their hats were in the form of a broad flat cone, made of thick grass, the under part being embossed with different coloured silks; and from a gilt ornament on the peak there was suspended a tassel made of peacock's feathers, and another of hair dyed red: some were armed with bows and arrows, others with only a straight sword, having no guard for the hand. A coarse loose frock without sleeves, and trowsers, or rather drawers, covering the thigh, were worn by the lower orders.

It was nearly dark when the Chief gave directions for preparing the boats, at the same time calling to two of his attendants to assist him in getting on his legs. Each took an arm, and in this way they at length succeeded in raising him up, which his people no sooner observed than they jumped into their boats with wonderful alacrity, and the Chief, after many bows and salams, walked into his boat. This did not give

him so much trouble as he had experienced on coming on board, because a platform leading from the ship to the boat had been constructed for his accommodation during his visit; an attention to his comfort with which he seemed much pleased. So far all seemed well; but there was still something amiss; for the old man, seated in state under his umbrella, remained alongside, with his attendants ranged on the deck about him, preserving the most perfect silence, and making no signs to explain his wishes. We were greatly at a loss to discover what it was he expected, till at length it occurred to us, that as he had paid us a visit, he might be waiting for a similar compliment in return. This idea was no sooner started, than we proceeded to pay our respects to him in his boat. He made signs for us to sit down, honouring us at the same time with a corner of his own mat. When we were seated, he looked about as if in distress at having nothing to entertain us with, upon which a bottle of wine was sent for and given to him. He ordered an attendant to pour it into several bowls, and putting the bottle away, made signs for us to drink, but would not on any account taste it himself till all of us had been served. He was not in the smallest degree dis

composed at being thus obliged to entertain his company at their own expense; on the contrary, he carried off the whole affair with so much cheerfulness and ease, as to make us suspect that he himself saw, and enjoyed the oddity of the scene and circumstances, fully as much as we did ourselves.

After sitting for about ten minutes, we left the Chief in great good humour, and returned on board, thinking, of course, that he would go straight to the shore; but in this we were much mistaken, for we had no sooner quitted his boat than he pushed off, to the distance of ten or twelve yards; and calling the other boats round him, gave orders for inflicting the discipline of the bamboo upon the unfortunate culprit, who had been ordered into confinement during the conference, for climbing over the hammocks against his orders. This exhibition, which it was evidently intended we should witness, had an odd effect; for it followed so much in train with the rest of the ceremony, and was carried on with so much gravity and order, that it looked like an essential and natural part of the etiquette. During the infliction of this punishment, a profound silence was observed by all the natives, except by

five or six persons immediately about the delinquent, whose cries they accompanied by a sort of song or yell at each blow of the bamboo. This speedy execution of justice was, no doubt, intended to impress us with high notions of Corean discipline.

As it was now quite dark, we did not expect the Chief to pay any more visits this evening; but we underrated his politeness, for the moment the above scene was concluded, he steered for the Alceste. Captain Maxwell, who during all the time had been on board the Lyra, hurried on board his ship to be prepared to give him a proper reception; he had but just time enough to change his jacket, for a coat and epaulettes, before the Chief arrived. After climbing up the ship's side with some difficulty, and being received in due form on the quarter-deck, which was illuminated for the occasion, he was conducted to the foremost cabin, where he was met by Captain Maxwell, who led him to a seat in the after cabin. As he declined sitting on a chair, he was obliged to wait for his mat, and, in the meantime, looked round him in amaze at the magnificence of the apartments. The change of Captain Maxwell's dress made the Chief behave

towards him as if he had not seen him before; but when he recognised him, he appeared much amused with his mistake, and his manners became from that moment much less reserved. He now turned about to see what was become of his mat, and was astonished to find himself alone with us in the cabin. It was then discovered that the sentinel at the cabin door, in repressing the crowd of his followers, had found it impossible to distinguish his more immediate attendants, and had therefore allowed nobody to pass.

The door being opened, the mat-bearer and four of the principal people were called in by the Chief: when they were all fairly seated on the deck, the secretary was directed to prepare a writing, which was dictated and delivered much in the same manner as before. Whether the presentation of a written paper was considered by the Chief as a necessary piece of etiquette, or whether he really had more hopes of being understood on this occasion than before, was quite uncertain; but the mode adopted by Captain Maxwell to undeceive him was conclusive. He immediately called for paper, and wrote upon it in English, "I do not understand one word that you say:" this he presented in return for that

which the Chief had delivered to him, observing all the forms and ceremonies which had been adopted towards himself. The Chief, on receiving it, examined the letters with great attention, and then made signs that it was wholly unintelligible; alternately looking at the paper and at Captain Maxwell, with an inquiring air: he was at last made sensible of the awkward dilemma in which all parties were placed, by observing that Captain Maxwell repeated all his looks and gestures as equally applicable to the Corean writing as to that in English *.

The Chief had now recourse to signs, without attempting any other mode of communication. He was in great spirits, and seemed entertained with the efforts which were made to please him. He asked to look at a mirror which attracted his attention: when it was put into his hands, he seemed very well satisfied with the figure which it presented, and continued for some time pulling his beard from side to side with an air of lu-

* The paper, presented by the Corean Chief, has been translated by Mr. Morrison at Canton, and is as follows: "Persons, of "what land—of what nation are you? On account of what bu- "siness do you come hither? In the ship are there any literary "men who thoroughly understand, and can explain what is "written?"

dicrous complacency. One of the attendants thought there could be no harm in looking at the mirror likewise, but the Chief was of a different opinion, and no sooner observed what he was doing, than he very angrily made him put down the glass and leave the cabin. The secretary also fell under his displeasure, and was reprimanded with much acrimony, for indulging in a very natural professional curiosity by overlooking our paper while we were writing. Scarcely five minutes elapsed, in short, during his stay, without his finding some cause of complaint against his people; but we could not determine whether this arose from mere captiousness, or was studiously done to give us a higher notion of his consequence; in the intervals, he was all cheerfulness and good humour. He was offered tea and cherry brandy, which he took along with us, and appeared now quite at ease in our company. While sipping his tea, we thought that he made signs, implying a wish for us to visit him on shore; to this we cheerfully assented, and an imaginary arrangement for landing in the morning was made accordingly by means of similar signs; with all which the Chief appeared much pleased, and, after a time, rose to go away

He had not walked many steps beyond the cabin door on the quarter-deck, however, before the serenity of his temper was once more discomposed. On passing the gun-room sky-light, he heard the voices of some of his people whom the officers had invited to their apartment, and who were enjoying themselves very merrily amongst their new acquaintance. The old Chief looked down, and observing them drinking, and making a noise, called to them in a loud passionate voice, which made them leave their glasses, and run up the ladder in great terror. The alarm soon spread along the lower deck, to the midshipmen's birth, where another party was carousing. The grog and wine with which they had been entertained was too potent for this party, as they reeled up without seeming to care for the old Chief, who, posting himself at the hatchway, ascertained, by personal examination, who the offenders were. On this occasion, his little rod of office was brought into great use; he pushed the people about with it to make them speak, and when this failed, he used it to turn them round, in order to discover their faces. One man watching his opportunity when the Chief was punching away at some one who had just come up, slipped

past and ran off; but the quick eye of the old man was not so easily deceived, and he set off in chase of the offender round the quarter-deck, to the unspeakable delight of the sailors who witnessed the race. The man had a lap full of biscuit, which had been given to him by the midshipmen; this impeded his running so much, that the Chief, notwithstanding his robes, at last came up with him after going several times round the deck: but while he was pricking him with his rod, in order to make him speak, the fellow very adroitly slipped his cargo of bread into a coil of rope, and then went quietly along with the Chief. The old Chief, convinced that he had seen something in the man's possession, came back afterwards, and having found the biscuit, pointed out the stolen goods to us, with an air of exultation. After this exploit, he continued for some time at the hatchway, expecting more of his people; but finding none come up, he went down to the main deck, and rummaged under the guns, and round the main-mast, to discover whether any one was concealed; but finding no person there, he came again upon deck, and shortly afterwards went into his boat.

On returning to the Lyra, we found a number

of boats anchored round her, which looked as if they meant to keep strict watch over us; but the crews were found to be asleep. They seemed to have had orders not to follow the Chief to the frigate, and were here waiting his return. On our pointing to the shore, and making signs that the old man with the long beard and large hat had landed, they began immediately to weigh their anchors. In a few minutes they were all at work, and every person in the boats joined in repeating the two words "ho ya, ho ya," the effect of which, from a great many voices, was not unpleasing.

The cable of these boats was wound round a large reel or barrel; to the ends of which two wheels with handles were fitted, by which means a considerable number of hands could apply their strength at the same moment. The anchor was made of a dark coloured heavy wood; with a long shank and flukes, and a short stock crossing the former, near the crown of the anchor, and not at the end of the shank, as with us in Europe. Their mat sails were divided into horizontal divisions by slender pieces of bamboo. When not under sail, the boats were impelled by oars having a circular piece of wood tied to the end; and were steered by a large oar or scull over the

stern. The bow of these boats is square above, but rises from the water in a slope, making a small angle with the water, like the end of a coal barge, but overhanging more. The planks are fastened to the timbers by means of square tree-nails, which pass in a slanting direction through the plank, and not straight, as with us.

5th of September.—A considerable bustle was observed on shore at daybreak this morning; and shortly afterwards we saw the old Chief and his suite embark, and pull towards us, accompanied by a numerous fleet of smaller boats, all ornamented with showy flags, and crowded with people in bright coloured garments, the whole forming rather a gay scene. As the procession moved slowly along, the band in the Chief's boat struck up a lively, martial air, on instruments similar to those we had heard last night; the tone of which was not unlike the drawling sound of the bagpipe, the bass or drone being produced by a long horn, and the squeaking sounds by four trumpets; two of which have stops in the middle, by which the notes are distinctly marked.

The Chief's visit was so unexpectedly early, that we had not put things in order for his reception on board the Lyra before he was alongside:

he came on board, however, and seemed happy at being allowed to walk about the decks, and examine every thing at his leisure without ceremony. When the cabin was ready, and the Chief seemed to have satisfied himself with looking round the upper deck, he was asked to walk below; which he complied with as soon as he understood what was meant. But he found it no easy matter to get down the narrow hatchway, in which there was barely room for his hat; but this he would by no means take off. As he entered the cabin, his robes and hat completely filled the door-way; and when seated at the table (for he no longer made any objection to a chair), he occupied no inconsiderable portion of the whole apartment. He sat here for some time, and examined every thing in the cabin with great attention, pointing with the little stick to whatever he wished to have placed nearer to him. In this way, the books, globes, glasses, &c. were successively put into his hands; and it was not a little amusing to see the old man delighted with wheeling the globes round, and hunting over the books for pictures, like a child.

A person of rank, who accompanied the Chief this morning, was asked to the cabin along with

him: he was no sooner seated than we imagined he had a very sickly look; and this circumstance was the cause of an absurd mistake. It had been supposed, from something or other which I forget, that the Chief, during last night's conference, made an allusion to some friend of his who was sick on shore; and accordingly, in our arrangements for the morning, it was proposed to take the doctors of both ships on shore, to visit the patient. As the Chief had himself come on board, our plans for landing were interrupted, and we naturally ascribed this early visit to his anxiety on account of his friend's health.

It was therefore taken for granted that this sickly looking companion of the Chief (who, somehow or other, got the title of the " Courtier" amongst us), could be no other than the patient alluded to last night; and accordingly, when the first compliments were over in the cabin, the doctor was sent for to prescribe. On his being introduced, the Courtier was desired to hold out his tongue; had his pulse felt, and was subjected to various interrogatories, the object of which the unfortunate man, who was in perfect health, could not possibly divine. He submitted, however, with so much patience to all these forms, and the Chief

looked on with such grave propriety during the examination, that they both evidently considered the whole scene as a part of our ceremonial etiquette, which it was no business of theirs to understand.

When this poor man was released from the doctor's hands, he began instantly to examine the books with the air of a person who understands what he is about. He appeared desirous of passing for a literary character; and observing us handle the books in a careless manner, ventured to ask for one, by drawing it towards himself with a begging look. As he happened to select a volume of the Encyclopædia Britannica, I was under the necessity of refusing his request; offering him in its stead a less valuable, though more showy book, which he accepted with much gratitude. No return, of course, had been looked for, and I was for a moment at a loss to understand what my friend meant, by slipping his fan into my hand, under the table. He did this in so mysterious a way, when the Chief was looking in another direction, that I saw it was his wish to conceal what he had done, and the fan was accordingly sent privately away. But unfortunately, my precaution was fruitless, for a few minutes

afterwards, on finding the crowded cabin very hot, I called for a fan, and the servant, unconscious of the mischief he was doing, brought back the Courtier's present; it no sooner met the old man's eye, than he rose half off his chair, and gave his unhappy companion such a look of furious anger, as made him tremble from top to toe: but he was soon pacified when he saw that we took an interest in the transaction, and the Courtier was allowed to keep his book, while I retained possession of the fan.

After sitting for half an hour, and drinking a glass of Constantia, the old man proposed to go upon deck. I accordingly led the way, and had gone some steps up the ladder, in advance, before I perceived that he had stopped at the door of the gun-room, the officers' mess-room, and was looking in, with his usual curiosity. I begged him to enter, which he accordingly did, and entertained himself for some time, with looking over the different cabins of the officers. From having observed the pleasure which he took in the sight of any thing new, I was induced to propose his going round the lower deck, and he looked quite pleased when I pointed along the passage. The state hat, which had been resolutely kept on

during all this time, notwithstanding its perpetual inconvenience to himself and every one around him, was here destined to come off; for after making two or three attempts, he found it impossible to get along our confined decks and wear the hat at the same time: being of a very inquisitive disposition, he chose the degrading alternative of being uncovered; and his researches afterwards proceeded without interruption. Nothing escaped the old man's observation; whatever was shut or tied up, he requested to have opened; and in this manner he rummaged most of the midshipmen's chests, and the sailors' bags, pretty much as a monkey does, throwing every thing about. He looked into the holds; took the lid off the boilers; and turned every thing he could lay his hands upon topsy-turvy. Seeing a cutlass tied to the deck, overhead, he took it down; and on drawing it from the scabbard, its lustre, and the keenness of its edge, surprised and delighted him so much, that he was asked to accept it. At first he seemed willing enough, but after holding a consultation with the Courtier for five minutes, he reluctantly put it back again. As he went along, he took samples of every thing that he could easily put into his sleeve, which served him instead of a

sack; so that when he came upon deck, he was pretty well loaded, and looked about him with the satisfaction of a school-boy, who has visited a show for the first time in his life.

Whilst we were below, one of the natives had been busily employed in taking the dimensions of the ship with a string, and another person was engaged under him, taking an account of the guns, shot, and rigging, all which details he wrote down; but not being able to ascertain, himself, the exact number of people on board, he had recourse to me for the information; this I communicated by extending the fingers of both hands eight times. The only part of the ship to which he had not free access was one of the cabins, and from which he felt much annoyed at being excluded: but when he was told that a gentleman was shaving within, he was quite satisfied with the explanation, and waited patiently until the door was opened to him.

The old gentleman and his followers appearing anxious to see a shot fired, an eighteen pound carronade was loaded before them, and discharged with the muzzle so much depressed, that the shot struck the water close to us, and then rose and fell eight or ten times, to the great entertainment

and surprise of the whole party. In the mean time, Captain Maxwell had come on board, and breakfast being ready, we prevailed upon the Chief to sit down with us. He ate heartily of our hashes, and of every thing else that was put before him, using a knife, fork, and spoon, which he now saw, probably, for the first time in his life, not only without awkwardness, but to such good purpose, that he declined exchanging them for Chinese chop-sticks, which were provided for him. In fact, he seemed determined to adopt our customs in every respect; for when the tea was offered to him in the Chinese way, he looked to the right and left, and seeing ours differently prepared, held up his cup to the servant, for milk and sugar, which being given to him, he remained perfectly satisfied.

This ready politeness, in accommodating himself to the customs of people so different in habits from himself, was very remarkable. When it is considered, that hitherto, in all probability, he was ignorant even of our existence, this striking propriety of manners may be thought, perhaps, to indicate not only that his rank in society was high, but to imply also a degree of civilization in that society, not substantiated by other circumstances. Be this

as it may, the incident is curious, inasmuch as it shows, that however different the state of civilization may be in different countries, the forms of politeness are much alike in all. This polished character was very well sustained by the old Chief; as he was pleased with our attempts to oblige him, and whatever we seemed to care about, he immediately took an interest in. He was very inquisitive, and was always highly gratified when he discovered the use of any thing which had puzzled him at first: but there was no idle surprise, no extravagant bursts of admiration. Towards his own people, indeed, he was harsh and impatient at all times; but this may have arisen from his anxiety that no offence should be given to us by the other natives, whom he might know to be less delicate and considerate than himself, and therefore to stand in need of constant control.

When breakfast was over, and the old man came once more upon deck, we endeavoured to signify to him that we meant to land, according to our engagement yesterday evening; but this he either did not or would not comprehend; for whenever we pointed towards the shore, he directed our attention to the frigate. At length he got into

his boat, pushed off, and was making for the Alceste, when Captain Maxwell followed in his boat, and rowing up alongside him, tried to prevail upon him to accompany us to the village: the Chief shook his head by way of disapprobation, and turning towards his attendants, entered into a discussion with them, which terminated by his stepping along with the Courtier into Captain Maxwell's boat.

We ascribed this measure to a desire on the Chief's part to show publicly that it was not he who had invited us on shore. We had not proceeded far before the Chief repented of his ready compliance, and tried to persuade us to return; but finding the ordinary signs of no avail, he held his head down and drew his hand across his throat, as if his head was certainly to be cut off. It was now our turn not to comprehend signs, and thinking it would be idle to lose so favourable an opportunity, we spared no pains to reconcile the old man to our landing. In this, however, we did not succeed, for, as we approached the shore, his anxiety increased, and he frequently drew his hand across his neck, as if to show that he would infallibly lose his head if we persisted. We again tried to re-assure him, by explaining

that we had no intention of going near the village, but merely desired to walk about for a short time, and then to go to the frigate to dine. He was of course included in this invitation; but his only answer consisted in pointing to us and making signs of eating, and then drawing his hand across his throat; by which he was understood to mean, that it might be very well for us to talk of eating, but, for his part, eating was of little moment, if he was to be without his head. We could not but laugh at this, as we had no notion of any such apprehension being well grounded; and, in a short time, landed at the distance of half a mile from the village.

The old man was lifted out of the boat by several of his people, and we were amazed to find, when they set him down, that he was in tears, and looking altogether very unhappy. In a few minutes a crowd, consisting of more than a hundred people, assembled round us, and we began to think we should have to pay dearly for our curiosity. But the poor old man had no thoughts of vengeance, and was no better pleased with the crowd than we were; for turning to his soldiers, he desired them to disperse the mob, which they did in a moment by pelting them with great

stones. The Chief now began crying violently, and turning towards the village walked away, leaning his head on the shoulder of one of his people. As he went along, he not only sobbed and wept, but every now and then bellowed aloud. We had not anticipated such a scene as this, and were now extremely sorry for having pushed matters to such an extremity. It had never occurred to us that the old Chief's head was really in danger; and even now we could not satisfy ourselves whether he was sincere, or merely acting in order to prevail on us to retire. The perfect tranquillity, nay, cheerfulness of the Courtier, who staid with us all this time, puzzled us extremely: nor could we account for the indifference of the other attendants, who looked on with as much composure as if such scenes were every day occurrences. But at all events, it was necessary before proceeding any further, that the old man should be pacified; and in order to effect this, we sat down on the beach, upon which he turned about and came crying back again. He seated himself by us, and waited very patiently whilst we remonstrated on the unreasonableness of his conduct, and contrasted the reception he had met with from us with his present unaccountable behaviour.

This was expressed by a dumb show acting of all that had taken place since we came to anchor in the bay; and these signs we thought might be intelligible to the Chief, because they were so to all of us, although no words were used. The signs used by different nations, however, are often dissimilar when the same thing is to be expressed: and it happened frequently with us that all attempts at explanation failed, on both sides, although the signs used, when no words were spoken, were understood by all the people of the same nation with the person making the signs.

The old man made a long speech in reply; in the course of which the beheading sign was frequently repeated. It is curious that he invariably held his hands towards his throat after he had gone through this motion, and appeared to wash his hands in his blood: possibly he did this in imitation of some ceremony used at executions.

Upon one occasion the Chief endeavoured to explain something to us which had a reference to a period of two days; this he did by pointing to the sun, making a motion twice from east to west, and, at the end of each time, closing his eyes as if asleep. This sign was variously interpreted: some believed it to mean that in two days his head

would be taken off: others imagined that in two days a communication might be made to his government, and that orders for our reception would be transmitted. Whatever might have been meant by this particular sign, it seems very probable that some general instructions were in force along the whole of this coast by which the treatment of strangers is regulated. The promptitude with which we were met at this place, where, perhaps, no ship ever was before, and the pertinacity with which our landing was opposed, indicate an extraordinary degree of vigilance and jealousy on the part of the government.

We expressed a desire to eat and drink, in the hopes of working on the old man's hospitality, and, perhaps, inducing him to entertain us in his house; but he made no motion towards the village, and merely sent off a servant for some water and a few small cockles. When this sorry fare was laid on the beach, he made signs for us to begin; but we did not choose to be pleased either with the entertainment itself, or with the place and manner in which it had been served. We explained to him that the proper place to eat was in a house, and not on a wet dirty beach; he made no offer, however, of any other; but lean-

ing his head pensively on his hands, seemed entirely resigned to his fate.

The case was now utterly hopeless; and after an ineffectual attempt to cheer him up, we went on board, as the last, and indeed only favour we could grant him. Thus we quitted this inhospitable shore, after a stay of not quite an hour, in which time we had never been twenty yards from our own boats. We saw the village, however, to some advantage; it is neatly built, and very pleasantly situated under fine trees, in a valley cultivated like a garden, in small square patches.

It was now determined to prosecute the voyage to the southward, and the Lyra was accordingly ordered to proceed as usual to sound the passages ahead of the frigate, but had not gone far before the Alceste, still at anchor, was observed to be surrounded with boats. In about an hour she weighed and stood to sea. Captain Maxwell had received another visit from the old Chief, whose appearance was described as being quite altered; his sprightliness and curiosity all gone, and his easy unceremonious manner exchanged for cold and stately civility: he looked embarrassed and unhappy, as it appeared, from an apprehension of having offended Captain Maxwell. When this

was discovered, no pains were spared to convince him that, in this respect, there was not the slightest cause for uneasiness. He would not accept any presents, but appeared much relieved by the unexpected kindness with which he was received, and before he went away was restored, in some degree, to his wonted spirits. When looking over the books in the cabin, he was a good deal taken with the appearance of a Bible; but when offered to him, he declined it, though with such evident reluctance, that it was again shown to him just as he was pushing off in his boat, and he now received it with every appearance of gratitude, and took his leave in a manner quite friendly.

We quitted this bay without much regret. The old Chief, indeed, with his flowing beard, and pompous array, and engaging manners, had made a strong impression upon us all; but his pitiful and childish distress, whatever might have been the cause, took away from the respect with which we were otherwise disposed to regard him: yet this circumstance, though it makes the picture less finished, serves to give it additional interest; whilst every thing ridiculous in the old man's

character is lost in the painful uncertainty which hangs over his fate.

From this bay we steered amongst the islands, during all the 6th and 7th of September, to the S. W. before the natives were met with again; we saw many, indeed, but never got near enough to converse with them. They were frequently observed seated in groups watching us on the islands which we passed. We saw several fishing-boats, with a crew of about a dozen men, crowded on a sort of poop. At a little distance these boats appeared to be formed of two vessels lashed together. This appearance we believe to be caused by their having an outrigger on one side, on which their oars, sails, and masts are piled, in order probably to keep the boat clear when they are at anchor fishing.

We threaded our way for upwards of a hundred miles amongst islands lying in immense clusters in every direction. At first we had hopes of being able to count them, and even attempted to note their places on the charts which we were making of this coast; but their immense numbers completely baffled all our endeavours to record their position. From the mast-head other groups

were perceived lying one behind the other to the east and south as far as the eye could reach. Frequently above a hundred islands were in sight from the deck at one moment: these varied in size from a few hundred yards to five or six miles in length. The sea being quite smooth, the weather fine, and many of the islands wooded and cultivated in the valleys, the scene was at all times lively, and was rendered still more interesting, by our rapid passage along the coast, by which the appearances about us were perpetually changing. Of this coast we had no charts possessing the slightest pretensions to accuracy, none of the places at which we touched being laid down within sixty miles of their proper situations. In the best maps only a few islands are noticed; whereas, in fact, the coast, for near two hundred miles, is completely studded with islands, to the distance of fifteen or twenty leagues from the main land. These inaccuracies in the charts naturally gave a very high degree of interest to this part of the voyage; yet the navigation being at all times uncertain, and often dangerous, considerable anxiety necessarily mingled itself with the satisfaction produced by so novel and splendid a scene. We always anchored during the night, or when the

tides, which were very rapid, prevented our proceeding in the deliberate manner absolutely required by the nature of the circumstances. An instance of the necessity of these precautions occurred on the 7th of September: at four o'clock in the afternoon, it being quite calm, we were drifting along with the tide, which suddenly shifted, and carried us rapidly towards a reef of rocks, not visible till the strong rippling of the water showed us where the danger lay. We let go an anchor immediately, but the jerk was so great, as to snap the Lyra's cable; and it required a second anchor to bring her up at no great distance from the reef.

As soon as the tide slacked, after this escape, a boat was despatched to examine the anchorage on the other side of an island near us. The officer landed about sunset, and from the top of the island could discover a village on the other side, on the shores of a large bay. He afterwards sounded the anchorage, and found it of a convenient depth. On his way back he landed near the village, but though it was bright moonlight, he saw none of the inhabitants.

8th of September.—About noon we weighed and sailed round the north end of the island,

which had been visited last night. The Alceste anchored nearly in the middle between the two islands which form the anchorage; but as the Lyra drew less water, she was placed close off the village; being about a quarter of a mile from the beach. At this distance, by means of a telescope fixed on a table on the poop, we were enabled to see what was going on in the village, while the people were unconscious of being observed. Mr. Clifford, who was too unwell to land with Captain Maxwell and myself, placed himself at the glass, and made many observations which must otherwise have escaped notice.

At first the only inhabitants visible were seated on the top of the hill watching us, the village itself being quite deserted; but shortly after our anchoring, the inhabitants began to assemble from different parts of the island. Of these several were women, some of whom had children on their backs, and others carried them in their arms. They looked stout; were fairer in complexion than the men; and were dressed in a long white robe, loose and open in front; with a petticoat of the same colour reaching a little below the knees; their hair was tied in a large knot behind; and a small piece of white cloth was

thrown loosely over the head, to protect them from the rays of the sun. Some women were engaged in husking rice in a mortar with a wooden beater; these had no dresses above the waist. The men and boys were seen carrying loads on a wooden frame hooked to the shoulders. In a square mud platform near the village a number of women and children were employed winnowing corn by pouring it from a height, so that the husks blew away. Fishing-nets were spread to dry on most of the houses.

We landed about five o'clock, and found in the village only two men, who obstinately remained at one place without speaking, and looking anxious that we should go away; they refused the buttons which we offered them, and resisted our persuasions to accompany us to the upper part of the village, which we were anxious they should do, that it might be seen we had no intention of hurting any thing, but merely to look about us. We went on alone, and on reaching a deserted house thought it a good opportunity to examine it. Before the door, on a neat clean level space, enclosed by a hedge covered with a sweet-scented white flower, we found several heaps of corn and straw, and several of the

wooden mortars, in which the rice is pounded; also a number of vessels, some filled with water, and others with rice. Cooking utensils were lying about, and a number of fishing lines coiled neatly in baskets; and split fish, spread out to dry on the top of little corn ricks, on one side of the court. The inside of the house was dark, and uncomfortable; the mud floor was very uneven; the walls were black with soot, and every thing looked dirty. On the left of the entrance two large metal boilers, twenty inches deep, were sunk in brick-work, the upper part being about a foot above the floor. The fire-place was between the boilers, and on the hot embers lay three split fish. On the wall opposite to the fire were shelves, having a number of cups, basins, and cooking utensils, principally of coarse stone ware, and some few of a sort of bell-metal. The number of inhabitants in one house must be considerable, if we can form an estimate from the quantity of their dishes and vessels. There were three neat small pieces of furniture on one of the shelves, the use of which we could not discover; they were made of wood, elegantly carved and varnished, with a round top about a foot in diameter, and four legs a foot and a half long. The

roof was well constructed, the rafters being mortised into the ends of the horizontal beams, and braced to the middle by a perpendicular beam or king-post. Over the rafters was a net-work of rods, to which the thatch was tied. There was no chimney to this house, and only one window made of slender bars of wood, forming square spaces three inches by two, covered by a thin semi-transparent paper, defended by the roof, which extends so far beyond the wall as to shelter it not only from the rain but from the sun. Most of the houses had a sort of raised verandah under the eaves, about a foot or more above the ground, extending from the door on either hand to the end of the house; these places were neatly levelled, and must afford a cool seat. The walls of the houses were from six to eight feet high, and from fourteen to twenty feet long; the top of the roof being about fourteen. The walls were of stone and mud; the doors, of which there were two, moved on the bar, which formed one of its sides; this bar was somewhat longer than the door, and so contrived as to work in a hole in the beam above, and in another in a stone below. On opening this we found a bare bank of earth as high as the house, at the distance of

three feet from the walls, and a hedge rising still higher on the top; this effectually excluded all light from that quarter.

This minute survey of the house being completed, we returned to our friends, who seemed in some measure re-assured. We tried to prevail upon them to accompany us in our walk, in hopes that the rest of the cottagers might be induced to return, when they saw how peaceably disposed we were. Captain Maxwell used every sign he could think of to no purpose, and becoming tired at length of these fruitless attempts, took hold of the oldest man's hand, and drawing it through his arm, walked off with him. I followed his example with the other: this familiarity amused the natives, who now accompanied us in perfect good humour. The ease and apparent indifference with which they walked along with us in this way was curious; and had so little of awkwardness in it, that one might have inferred that it was actually the fashion of Corea to walk arm in arm. Having reached the house which we had before examined, we sat down in the verandah, and made signs to our companions that we wished to smoke a pipe with them. In the meantime a Corean boat was observed to

come to the landing-place; the crew of which, on landing, came up towards us at a rapid pace. The hurried manner of these people, so different from the ordinary behaviour of the Coreans we had seen, made us apprehend that some violence was meditated; but in this we were mistaken, for they sat down with us, gave us their pipes to smoke, and laughed most immoderately at some of our words: we took the hint from them, and laughed heartily whenever we observed that something good had been said amongst them; this was well received, and proved afterwards a good mode of breaking the formality which at first always exists, more or less, between people who do not understand one another's languages.

Their curiosity was strongly excited by our dress, which they examined deliberately and minutely: they wished to see some parts of our clothing taken off, and in order to gratify them they were allowed to have our coats, shoes, stockings, and hats, and they were a little provoked because we declined stripping entirely! They were more struck with the stockings than with any thing else, frequently shouting "Hota! Hota!" This word, which is pronounced with a strong aspiration, was very naturally noted

down in our list as the Corean word for stockings: but it was found afterwards to be merely an expression of approbation, applied indiscriminately to whatever they consider remarkably good. Similar mistakes occurred perpetually during this voyage, and it was always considered as a great object accomplished when we got possession of the expression "what is the name of this?" After sitting some time with these people, and smoking several pipes with them, we gave up all hopes of seeing the villagers return while we remained; and as the night was coming on, we proposed taking a short walk with our friends, and then going on board. But as soon as they saw us go up the hill instead of returning to the boat, they became very uneasy, and wanted us to turn back. As we had reason, however, to conjecture that the women and children were on the other side of the hill, we went on in the expectation of getting a sight of them before it became dark. This the Coreans took effectual means to prevent, by following us with shouts wherever we went, so as to give their families warning of our approach. The women and children probably retreated before us to a ravine on the north side of the island, for when we

approached it the Coreans became exceedingly anxious that we should not advance; and one man seeing us still go on, took hold of my arm, and gave it a very sharp pinch. I turned round and exclaimed, "Patience, Sir!" he drew back on observing my displeasure, and the next instant called out himself, "Patience, Sir!" The others hearing him speak English caught the words also, and nothing was heard for some time amongst them but "Patience, Sir," pronounced in every instance with singular propriety of accent. They seemed surprised themselves on discovering powers of imitation hitherto in all probability unexercised. This incident brought us better acquainted, for they were now anxious to try further experiments, and we remained on the top of the hill teaching them our words till it was nearly dark. They were certainly entertained with all this, but nevertheless showed far more satisfaction in escorting us to our boats than in learning English.

Before going on board we invited them to come to the ship next day, which request one of the party was supposed to comprehend: he first made preparations for going to bed, then closed his eyes, hung his head on his hand, and snored

very properly; after a time he opened his eyes, started and looked about him, then laid his hands on Captain Maxwell's shoulders with an air of welcome. This was interpreted by some into a wish for our departure till the morning, and by others that he himself would visit us at daylight; for it rarely happened that two of us interpreted the same sign in the same way. As this man never came on board, and received us on landing next day with any thing but welcome, probably both guesses were wrong: of one thing there was no doubt, his anxiety to get rid of us; and his signs may have meant that it was time for all honest people to be in bed.

9th of September.—At sunrise we landed at the village, and found it as deserted as before. We left it, and walked towards the highest peak on the island, accompanied by a few of the Coreans, who did not interfere with us till about half way up, when on our entering a grove of fir trees, one of the Coreans objected to our advancing further; we went on, however, and upon reaching the stump of an old tree, the Corean fell on his knees, bowed his head to the ground, and as he raised it again held his hands closed and pressed together towards the stump. This had very

much the air of a stratagem to dissuade us from going further in that direction, where the women probably were concealed. Admitting this to have been the motive, it is curious that he should have supposed such a show of religious form calculated to restrain us. It is further remarkable as being the only circumstance of the kind which occurred during our stay amongst these islands. We did not see a single temple, idol, nor even a tomb; whereas in China, villages much smaller than those which we visited at Corea have them in every corner. The other Coreans took no notice of the old tree, and the man who was prostrating himself before it, finding that his behaviour produced nothing but a number of questions, got on his legs and walked sulkily away. In the course of our walk we saw six bullocks of a small breed and very fat, but the Coreans would not sell them for any thing which we had to offer. Dogs were the only quadrupeds besides that we saw: there were pigeons, hawks, and eagles, but very few smaller birds: crows were as numerous here as in every other part of the world.

We returned on board to breakfast, and afterwards set out upon an excursion to the top of a high island lying some leagues to the south-east

of us. On our way we landed, and observed the sun's meridian altitude with an artificial horizon, by which we ascertained the latitude to be 34° 22′ 39″ north; the longitude by the mean of two chronometers is 126° 2′ 45″ east.

We passed, for the distance of five miles, amongst islands, which were all inhabited, except the very smallest, which were barren rocks. The villages were built in the valleys, the houses being nearly hid by trees and hedges. The sides of the hills were cultivated with millet and a species of bean: in the numerous small gardens near the villages, we saw a great variety of plants; but as we had no botanist amongst us, our researches in this respect were very limited *.

As the peaked island which we had undertaken to climb was remarkably steep, and covered with a long coarse grass, it cost us a tiresome scramble before we could gain the top, which is about six hundred feet above the level of the sea. The main land of Corea is just discernible in the north-east and east, from this elevation; but it

* Collections, however, of every plant we saw were made at all the places we visited. These were subsequently given to Mr. Clarke Abel (author of a most interesting and valuable account of the late Embassy), but they perished, with all that gentleman's other collections, in the shipwreck of the Alceste.

commands a splendid view of the islands, lying in thick clusters, as far as the eye can reach, from north-west quite round by east to south. We endeavoured to count them; and one person, by reckoning only such as were obviously separate islands, made their number one hundred and twenty. Two other gentlemen, by estimating the numbers in each connected cluster, made severally one hundred and thirty-six, and one hundred and seventy; a difference which at once shows the difficulty of speaking with precision on this subject. When it is considered, that from one spot, which though considerably elevated, was not centrical, one hundred and twenty islands could be counted, and that our course for upwards of a hundred and fifty miles had been amongst islands no less crowded than these, some idea may be formed of this vast Archipelago, of the existence of any one island of which, no man in Europe had ever before entertained the least suspicion.

After enjoying this magnificent scene for some time, we went down on the other side of the peak, which is much less steep. We found the boat's crew preparing dinner for us, under some trees, close to a well of cool water. The village to

which the well belonged not being many yards off, we proceeded to explore it, and found it deserted by all except an old woman and one man. The woman, who was seated on a pile of stones, in the middle of the village, took no notice of us as we passed; she was very old and decrepit. The man was seated at the door of a cottage, busily engaged in making a straw sandal: on our entering his enclosure, he looked up for an instant, and immediately resumed his work, apparently with as much composure as if we had been a party of his countrymen. A button was offered to him, which he accepted without scruple: he agreed, with equal readiness, to exchange his unfinished sandal for another button, which having carelessly put away in a bag lying near him, he took some straw, and recommenced his business, without seeming to observe that we were rummaging his house. He is the only Corean we have met with, who has not shown some slight symptoms of curiosity; indeed he seemed totally indifferent about our staying or going, or about what we were doing in his house; and we left him without knowing whether to ascribe his apathy to extreme fear, or to absolute stupidity.

On returning from the village to the tree

under which our cloth was laid, we saw a party of the natives assembled on a rising ground near us; they were invited, by signs, to join us, but they kept their places unmoved. While we were at dinner, our boat's crew, who had been rambling about, joined the natives, and in a few minutes became very good friends with them; the natives giving up their pipes, and the sailors in return supplying them with tobacco. We had frequent occasion to remark during this voyage, that the sailors made acquaintance with the natives much sooner than the officers could do. This seems a natural effect of the difference between their manners and habits and ours. When we met with the natives, we felt always so anxious to conciliate, and were so fearful of giving offence, that our behaviour, thus guarded and circumspect, wore naturally an air of restraint, calculated to produce distrust and apprehension on their part. On the other hand, honest Jack is not only unreflecting and inoffensive himself, but never suspects that others can possibly misconstrue his perfect good-will and unaffected frankness, and he thence acquires an easy unembarrassed manner, which at once wins the confidence and familiarity of all classes of natives.

In about an hour after we had sat down, one of the natives hastily rose, and without appearing to deliberate, but as if actuated by a sudden impulse, strode rapidly down to us, and in the most unceremonious way possible, presented his lighted pipe for us to smoke. We were gratified by this overture, and received him with every kindness in our power; we prevailed upon him to take a glass of wine; which he had no sooner drank off, than he shouted "Hota! Hota!"

This rapturous exclamation brought the rest of the party down, who seating themselves by us, drank freely, and became very cheerful and communicative, telling us the Corean names of every thing we pointed to, and asking, in return, the English names for our clothes, &c. But although wine made these people far more sociable than any whom we had before seen, it did not make them forget the principal object of their sober thoughts, for they suggested, every now and then, by pointing to our boats, the propriety of our going away. After sunset, they became very impatient and uneasy at our stay; we at length yielded to their entreaties, the whole party accompanying us to the water's side, and taking leave with the most lively marks of satisfaction at our departure.

10th of September.—This morning, about ten o'clock, we got under weigh, and stood to the southward, winding our way amongst innumerable islands: by sunset we were clear of them all, and could just distinguish the high island of Quelpaert in the south-east quarter.

The shortness of our stay on this coast, and the difficulty we experienced in communicating with the inhabitants, will account for the scanty and disjointed nature of the information obtained. A future voyager would do well to be accompanied by a person who can write the Chinese character, and he ought to allow himself full leisure to overcome, by patient management, the extreme distrust of strangers evinced by this unsociable people.

A chart of our track along this coast is subjoined to this work; it was constructed under circumstances of great haste, and is therefore necessarily very incomplete; but it is, at all events, greatly more accurate than any maps or charts hitherto published.

CHAPTER II.

Leave Corea—Sulphur Island—Volcano—See the Great Loo-Choo Island—Lyra nearly wrecked—First Interview with the Natives — Anchor at Napakiang — Natives crowd on Board —Their interesting Appearance and Manners—Several Chiefs visit the Alceste—Land to make Observations—Astonishment of the Natives—Six Chiefs visit the Ships—Alceste and Lyra proceed farther in Shore—A Chief of high Rank waits upon Captain Maxwell—Return his Visit—Feast—Projected Survey of the Anchorage—Visit Reef Island—The Lyra sent to look for another Harbour—Arrangements for landing the Alceste's Stores—Description of the Temple and Garden—First Acquaintance with Maddera—Study of the Language.

After leaving Corea, we stood to the southward and eastward, with a strong breeze from the north, and a mountainous swell from the north-east. Shortly after daybreak on the 13th of September, we saw Sulphur Island, in the south-west quarter, and by eleven in the morning were close up to it. It had been our intention to land, but we were prevented by the surf, which broke with great violence all round the island, and rendered this impracticable. The sulphuric volcano from which the island takes its name is on the north-

west side; it emits a white smoke, and the smell of sulphur is very perceptible on the lee side of the crater. The cliffs near the volcano are of a pale yellow colour, interspersed with brown streaks: the ground at this place is very rugged, as the strata lie in all directions, and are much broken; on the top is a thin coat of brown grass. The south end of the island is of considerable height, of a deep blood-red colour, with here and there a spot of bright green: the strata, which are here nearly horizontal, are cut by a whin dyke running from the top to the bottom of the cliff, projecting several yards from its face like a wall.

As the weather looked threatening, we gave up the intention of examining this singular island, and proceeded on our course to the southward till four o'clock, at which time high land was discovered in the south-west quarter: as there was not sufficient daylight to close with it, we stood off to the westward for the night. Shortly after sunset the sky became suddenly overcast; the wind veered about from one point to another; the air became quite chill; the swell of the sea rose to an immense height; and every thing, in short, seemed to indicate the approach

of one of those furious tempests called tyfoons, or hurricanes. Every preparation was speedily made to encounter no ordinary storm: but we were agreeably disappointed at finding it turn out nothing more than a tolerably sharp gale of wind.

14th of September.—The weather was still unsettled; but being anxious to close with the land, we bore up and steered in the supposed direction of the Great Lieou Kieou, or Loo-choo Island. At eight o'clock we saw the Sugar Loaf of Captain Broughton, which is a small green island, having a high remarkable cone in the middle. We left this to the eastward, and continued steering to the south south-west, hoping to get to leeward of the great island before night, where we expected to find smooth water till the weather became fine.

While going along on this course at a quick rate, we suddenly saw breakers close to us, which the haziness of the weather, and the breaking of the waves on all sides, had prevented our seeing before. We instantly hauled to the wind, and made all the sail we could carry in order to weather the reef. Our situation was now very cri-

tical, for the swell caused by the recent gale materially impeded our sailing; and we had the further mortification to discover that a strong lee-current was drifting us gradually towards the reef. We were so very close, that from the mast head we could look fairly down upon the reef, which was of a circular form, with a low island on its southern side. The surf broke all round the outer circle, but in the middle the sea was quite smooth, and being only a few feet deep, the coral, which was of a bright green, appeared distinctly through it. The tranquillity and beauty of the interior circle offered a curious contrast to the violence without, and at any other moment might have been considered not an unpleasing sight; but we had now no leisure for such reflections. After being in this unpleasant predicament for some time, gradually approaching nearer and nearer to the rocks, we succeeded in weathering the western end of the reef, by a very short distance indeed. We had no sooner passed this than we saw, to our great joy, a passage several miles wide, through which we proceeded to leeward of the reef island, where the water was perfectly smooth. As the Alceste

kept always at the distance of a league astern of the Lyra, whose draught of water was not nearly so great, she rounded the reef with less difficulty, though not without some danger.

15th of September.—In the morning it was arranged that the Lyra should proceed in shore in search of a secure anchoring place, while the frigate remained in the offing in deep water. At ten o'clock I thought we had discovered a place of security, and having anchored the Lyra, sent three boats to examine it. A sort of harbour was found, formed by coral reefs; but the passages being all intricate for large ships, and the water shallow inside, it was considered by no means safe. During this survey we fell in with several canoes; in one of which there was a native who seemed to know what we were searching for; because he directed us to a point of land to the northward, and waved for us to go round it. While the boats were away, several canoes came off to the Lyra, the people in which were very friendly; for the moment they came alongside, one handed a jar of water up to us, and another a basket of boiled sweet potatoes, without asking or seeming to wish for any recompense. Their manners were gentle and respectful, they uncovered their heads when

in our presence, bowed whenever they spoke to us; and when we gave them some rum, they did not drink it till they had bowed to every person round. Another canoe went near the Alceste, and a rope being thrown to them, they tied a fish to it, and then paddled away. All this seemed to promise well, and was particularly grateful, after the cold repulsive manners of the Coreans.

The day was spent in trying to beat round the point of land to windward, but the tide was too strong against us, and when it became dark, we found ourselves awkwardly situated. To the east and west of us there were islands at the distance of a few miles. To leeward we had discovered that there was a circular coral reef, just appearing above the surface at low water; and to windward were seen the reefs upon which we were so nearly wrecked on Saturday. As the exact position of these numerous dangers was unknown to us, we came to the resolution of anchoring for the night, though in eighty fathoms water.

16th of September.--At daylight we weighed, and beat to windward all the morning; but owing to the tide being contrary, it was two o'clock before we passed the point mentioned

above; this we had no sooner done, than we came in sight of an extensive town, and a harbour filled with vessels. On steering towards the town, we had to sound our way cautiously amongst coral reefs, which were tolerably well defined by the surf breaking upon them*. The Alceste followed as soon as we had ascertained that the passage was clear, and both ships anchored at the distance of half a mile from the town.

In a short time we were surrounded by canoes crowded with the natives, who, accompanied by their children, flocked on board the ships. They all wore a loose dress, tied with a belt round their waist; their hair being pulled tight up from all sides, was formed into a knot on the top of the head, and through this knot they thrust two metal pins. In the course of an hour, a native came on board who appeared to be somewhat higher in rank than the rest; and we now discovered, to our great satisfaction, that this man understood our Chinese servant. As it appeared that there

* This circumstance is by no means common, and therefore cannot be depended on. In fine weather these reefs give no warning whatever, and a ship on approaching them ought invariably to have a boat ahead, to sound the way through the passages between the rocks.

were other chiefs on shore superior in rank to this man, Captain Maxwell declined receiving his visit; as well with the view of inducing the principal people to come on board, as of maintaining an appearance of dignity, a point of great importance in all transactions with the Chinese and their dependants, who are said invariably to repay condescension with presumption. We had heard that these people were tributary to China, and it was therefore natural for us to conclude that there might be some similarity in their manners and customs. At all events, we foresaw that it would be much easier at any future time to be unreserved and cordial with them, if we found good reason, after having assumed a distance and reserve in the first instance, than it would be to repress insolence, if engendered by too hasty familiarity.

Before the native spoken of went on shore, he requested to know the reason of our coming into this port; the interpreter was instructed to acquaint him that the ships had experienced very bad weather, and had been a long time at sea; that the large ship had sprung a leak, and required repairs which could only be done in a secure harbour: further explanations, it was ob-

served, would be given to the superior chiefs when they came on board. We had been prepared for these inquiries, not only from the reception we had met with at Corea, but from the well-known character of the nations in this quarter of the globe; and it was so far fortunate, that the Alceste was actually in want of repairs; because to have assigned curiosity, and a desire of gaining information as our object, to people wholly unconscious of such emotions, would naturally have led to their ascribing our actions to some more interested, and consequently more dangerous motive.

The canoes which we saw to-day were mostly made of one piece of wood; they had two sails, and were moved, when not sailing, with considerable velocity, by two or more paddles, assisted by an oar over the stern, which acted both as a scull and as a rudder. Each person in the canoe had a neat low seat, made of rattans. As the day closed, fishing canoes came in great numbers from sea, and they all called alongside the ships on their way; on this occasion some of the fishermen very good naturedly pulled up our fishing lines and baited the hooks. The whole shore abreast of the ships was covered

with people; but the crowd was greatest on two pier-heads, forming the entrance to the harbour, where the variety of colour in their dresses made a very lively exhibition. In the evening, Captain Maxwell and I rowed round to examine the anchorage, which we discovered to be tolerably clear of rocks. An officer was at the same time sent to examine the inner harbour, but he did not go far within the entrance, which was found much too shallow for the frigate.

On returning to the Lyra, I learnt that Mr. Clifford had been entertaining several respectable looking natives who had paid him a visit. As they readily comprehended his desire to know their words for various things, he succeeded in collecting a considerable number, among which we were surprised to find their name for tobacco the same as our own; all the others were quite new to us.

17th of September.—I carried the interpreter to the Alceste, after breakfast, where I found two chiefs, who had been on board for some time, and had been taken care of by the officers, while Captain Maxwell was preparing to receive them. A message was soon after formally sent to intimate to them that the Ta-yin (a Chinese

title, used also by these people to persons of rank, and invariably applied by them to the Captains) was desirous of seeing the chiefs: they were accordingly introduced by the first lieutenant, Mr. Hickman, into the after-cabin, where they were received by Captain Maxwell in due form. They at first resolutely objected to sitting down, making at the same time many low obeisances, by stooping the body, and raising the hands, closed one over the other, to their faces. Their scruples about being seated were at length overcome, and the first chief took his place on Captain Maxwell's left hand, the next on my left, and a third, who was evidently of a lower rank, sat beyond the second. The chiefs sat quite still and respectfully silent, till Captain Maxwell, finding that it was expected of him to commence the conversation, communicated to them that the ships under his command belonged to the King of England; that they had gone to China with an Ambassador; that on their way back to Canton, they had experienced very bad weather, and had been obliged to put in at this place to refit, and to procure supplies.

In reply, they expressed their willingness to assist us as much as lay in their power, but said

that the harbour was too shallow for such large ships, and recommended our proceeding to another harbour called Oonting, which they described as being secure and commodious, and being only a few hours sail from this anchorage, they offered to furnish pilots and a boat to conduct us. Captain Maxwell, being unwilling to quit this anchorage unless certain of finding a better, proposed to them to send the Lyra to examine and report upon the harbour alluded to. The chiefs deliberated for some time upon this proposal, and then said they could not undertake to send pilots to the "little ship" without first consulting some Great Man on shore. We were all curiosity to know who this great personage could be, but they evaded our inquiries with great adroitness. Captain Maxwell asked where the king resided, and intimated his intention of waiting upon him; to this they strongly objected, declaring it, moreover, impossible, as his majesty lived a thousand miles off. They did not seem aware of their inconsistency, when they undertook, immediately afterwards, to get an answer from court about pilots for the Lyra, in a few hours.

We had been led to hope, from the frankness

and kindness of these people, that no restraint would be imposed upon us; and we were the more disappointed at observing, that whenever we spoke of landing, or when we asked any questions about the king, the chiefs became immediately agitated, and replied in a very unsatisfactory and mysterious manner. We consoled ourselves, however, with the supposition, that upon further acquaintance their distrust and apprehension would wear off.

The official business of the interview being now over, the chiefs were asked to walk round the cabin, an invitation which they accepted with manifest satisfaction. During the conference they had preserved a solemn gravity suited to a high state ceremony, and though surrounded by numberless new and curious objects, never once expressed the slightest curiosity to examine them. But now they were no longer formal, and looked over the various articles with great attention, taking particular notice of the globes, books, and mirrors. Their manners struck us as being remarkably gentle and unassuming. They showed themselves to be observant, and to be possessed of a good deal of curiosity; but they stood in need of

some encouragement to induce them to come forward, being restrained, by a well-bred self-denial, from hastily gratifying their curiosity, lest it might be thought obtrusive by those to whom its objects were not new. Their dress was singularly graceful; it consisted of a loose flowing robe, with very wide sleeves, and tied round the middle by a broad rich belt or girdle of wrought silk; a yellow cylindrical cap, and a neat straw sandal, over a short cotton boot or stocking. Two of the chiefs wore light yellow robes, the other dark blue, streaked with white, all made of cotton. Their caps were flat at top, and appeared to be formed by winding a broad band diagonally round a frame or cylinder, in such a manner, that at each turn a small portion of the last fold should be visible above in front, and below at the hinder part. The sandals were held on the feet by a stiff straw band passing over the instep, and joining the sandal near the heel; this band was connected with the forepart of the sandal by a slight string, drawn between the great toe and that next to it, the stocking being made with a division, like the finger of a glove, to receive the great toe. They all carried fans, which they stuck in their

girdles when not in use; each person had also a short tobacco pipe in a small bag, hanging, along with the pouch, at the waist.

When they had satisfied themselves with looking over the cabin, they went away, with a promise of returning in the evening as soon as the answer from the Great Man should arrive.

During all this morning, the whole space between the ships and the shore was covered with canoes, each containing about ten persons. The scene was exceedingly lively; for, as few of the parties who came to visit the ships remained long on board, the canoes were continually passing backwards and forwards, and the numbers which came in this way must have been immense. They seemed highly gratified with being allowed to go wherever they pleased over the ships; nor was this licence ever abused. The manners of these people, even of the very lowest classes, were particularly good; their curiosity was certainly great; but it never made them rudely inquisitive; their language sounded very musical to our ears, and in most cases we discovered that it was easy of pronunciation. We heard a boat song to-day, the air of which was sweet and plaintive; we tried in vain to catch the words, and unfortunately none

of us had sufficient skill to note down the air. We observed several people in canoes, making drawings of the ships, but they hastily concealed their work when they were observed. In consequence of what had been said last night of our being in want of repairs, a party of native shipwrights and caulkers was sent on board the Alceste this morning, but their tools were quite of a Lilliputian order, and altogether unsuited to the rough work required.

The variety of colour and of pattern in the dresses of the people to-day was endless. Many wore printed cottons; others had dresses with the patterns drawn on them by hand, instead of being stamped; blue, in all its shades, was the prevailing colour; many dresses, too, bore a great resemblance to the Highland tartans. The children, in general, wore more showy dresses than the men; of the dress of the women we could learn nothing, as none had yet been seen. Every person buckled round him one of the girdles before described, which was always of a different colour from the dress, and, in general, richly ornamented with flowers in embossed silk, and sometimes with gold and silver threads. A loose flowing dress is naturally so graceful, that even

the lowest boatmen at this place had a picturesque appearance. Their hair, which was observed to be invariably of a glossy black, was shaved off the crown of the head; but this bare place was effectually concealed by their mode of dressing the hair in a close knot over it. Their beards and mustachios had been allowed to grow, and were kept neat and smooth.

In stature these people are rather low, but they are well formed, and have an easy, graceful air, which suits well with their flowing dress. Their colour is not very good, some of the people being dark, and others nearly white, but in most instances they are of a deep copper. This defect is fully compensated by the peculiar sweetness and intelligence of their countenances. Their eyes, which are black, have a placid expression; their teeth are regular and beautifully white. In deportment they are modest, polite, timid, and respectful, and in short appear to be a most interesting and amiable people.

Two of the chiefs who had visited us in the morning, and whose names we have discovered to be Ookooma and Jeema, came on board again about half past five, and staid an hour. They had not received any answer, they said, from the

Great Man, and therefore could not send pilots to the "hoonee gua," or little ship. They were accompanied by a chief whom we suspected to be a Chinese, from his appearing to understand the interpreter so much better than the others had done: his formal and suspicious behaviour did not please us much. Their object in coming was to say that a present of stock and vegetables had been sent to the ships. We took this occasion to intimate to them that we intended to land the next day, saying, when they objected to this, that our wish was to wait upon the Great Man: to this they replied, that no person answering to our description resided here. We then said, it was at least right we should return their obliging visit. This argument they combated by saying, that they were men of inferior rank to us, and therefore not entitled to any such honour as we proposed; and that we at the same time should be degrading ourselves by such unusual condescension. Captain Maxwell, unwilling to give up the point, told them of his illness; upon which, our new acquaintance, who seemed more earnestly bent against our landing than any of the others, instantly offered to send a physician on board to attend him. Captain Maxwell thanked him for

his attention, but said that his own doctor had already strongly recommended a ride on shore as the most likely thing to restore his health; upon which they all laughed heartily, and the discourse was, by mutual consent, changed to something else.

In this manner every proposal to land, or even allusion to the shore, was industriously put aside; and as it was our wish to gain their good will, the matter was dropped for the present. Before they went away, Captain Maxwell, pointing to their pipes, begged of them to smoke whenever they felt disposed to do so; they appeared grateful for this considerate attention, but would not on any account begin till we showed them the example, by smoking with pipes, which they prepared for us. They appeared more at their ease after this incident, and when they had sat for some time, took leave for the night, on the most friendly terms.

18th of September.—Captain Maxwell sent to me in the course of the morning, to say that he meant to land on a point of land at some distance from the town, in order to observe the sun's meridian altitude with an artificial horizon. Just as I was setting out to accompany him, I was unexpectedly detained by two well-dressed natives, who

were half-way down the cabin ladder before I knew of their approach. I found that one of them came to superintend the measurement of the Lyra; and that the other, who seemed of an inferior rank to his companion, came to explain why some poultry, only now sent, had not come on board the evening before, along with the other presents. I forgot to mention in its proper place, that a bullock, two hogs, two goats, a dozen and a half of fowls, some candles, wood, and water, were sent to each of the ships. I asked them to sit down, and they were so well satisfied with the Constantia which was given them, that they remained for some time; owing to this delay, I did not reach the shore till the time for observing the sun had gone by. I found Captain Maxwell with Ookooma and several of the chiefs, surrounded by an immense crowd of the natives, who had left the town on seeing the boat put off, and had hastened to this spot, either out of curiosity or respect, or more probably to watch our proceedings. At our request, Ookooma, who appeared to possess considerable authority, made the whole crowd, chiefs not excepted, sit down on the grass in a circle round us.

Their astonishment at our operations was

strongly expressed in their countenances; and, indeed, our apparatus and behaviour may well have seemed to them somewhat magical. In the first place the quicksilver, which must have appeared like melted metal, was poured into a trough, in a fine stream from a wooden bottle: while it was running out the people repeated in an under tone "yi, yi, yi, yi!" but were silent when the glass roof was placed over the trough. The circular instrument and sextant, fixed on stands, next attracted their notice, and they looked on in profound silence while we were taking the sun's altitude. As we were too late for the desired observation, we amused the natives by letting them look at the two reflected images of the sun, seen through the telescope of the instruments. Ookooma being the highest in rank, was the first who placed his eye at the instrument, and being quite unprepared for what he was to see, started back in utter astonishment, as if he had unconsciously beheld something supernatural and forbidden. The other chiefs, in their turn, looked through the telescope, as well as several old men who stepped forward from the crowd. Some testified their surprise by a sudden exclamation; others were perfectly unmoved by what they saw,

so that we could not guess what they thought; while some held up their hands, and looked as if the whole matter were totally beyond the reach of their comprehension. When this was over, and there was no longer any necessity for the crowd being seated, they closed round and watched us while we were putting up the instruments. Some of the little boys held out their hands for quick-silver, with which they ran off quite happy.

During this time we were about fifty yards from the bottom of a cliff, on the brow of which a group of women, with baskets on their heads, had taken their station; but we were unfortunately too far off to discern their features, or even to make out their dress distinctly: it appeared, however, to be like that worn by the men, though somewhat shorter, and without any girdle round the waist.

The rocks at this part of the coast rise in perpendicular rugged cliffs of limestone with a number of rude square excavations, which, at first sight, appeared to have been worn by the elements, but on examination showed evident traces of art. Most of these caves were closed up by a wall of loose stones, but in one, of which the mouth was open, several human bones were

found lying amongst the sand. On removing a stone from one of the closed caves, a vase was observed in the inside, of an elegant shape. The people signified to us that these were the remains of the dead, but we could not ascertain distinctly whether it was the bones or merely the ashes which were thus preserved. They made no objections to our examining these caves, though they certainly were not pleased with it. No notice was taken of what Captain Maxwell and I did; but Mr. Clifford, who had remained below collecting words from some intelligent natives, was strongly recommended by Ookooma to go back to the boat; he walked up, however, without opposition, to the cave which we had been examining, and on joining Captain Maxwell they ceased to importune him. A number of little boys who had observed us occasionally pulling flowers and plants, ran about making botanical collections for us, and after presenting what they had gathered, with grave politeness, laughed and ran away with an arch expression of ridicule at our curiosity.

On our way back, instead of going directly off to the ships, we coasted along shore in our boats, by which means we had a good view of a stone

bridge, of one arch, connecting two parts of the town. On the south side of the bridge we passed a space of considerable extent, probably set apart as a burying ground; for we saw here a number of large horse-shoe tombs like those used in China, whitewashed, and apparently kept in good repair. The greater number of the tombs, however, were in the form of small square houses, with low pyramidal roofs, some being tiled, and others thatched.

The coast at this place is of fawn-coloured, granulated limestone, the base of which appears to have been scooped out by the action of the sea. As this excavation is at some places higher than the waves of the sea can be supposed to have ever reached, there is at first sight some difficulty in assigning the sea as the cause; yet as the roof of the excavation is exactly horizontal for a great extent, and as its appearance, in every other respect, suggests that it has been formed by the dashing of the waves, I am disposed to conjecture that the whole of this part of the coast has been elevated by a force from below.

The scenery here, as in most countries in these climates, does not admit of a satisfactory description. It may be said, however, that it is more

pleasing to the eye than that of islands near the equator, inasmuch as the vegetation here is not so profusely luxuriant as to overload the picture with foliage to the exclusion of every thing else. Here, also, there is much variety; the numerous groves of pine-trees giving some parts of it an English air, although the style of landscape is upon the whole what is called tropical.

19th of September.—No answer having come from the Great Man, we began to apprehend that they were going to exclude us from their country altogether. We tried in vain to discover whether the King was at this place, or a hundred, or as some maintained, a thousand miles off; in the mean time, as we knew the island to be less than sixty miles in length, we thought it fair to infer that they wished to deceive us, when they spoke of such immense distances.

We conjectured that a large building on a rising ground, three or four miles from us in an eastern direction, with two flag-staffs near it, was the palace mentioned in the account quoted by Pere Gaubil. (Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses, Tom. XXIII.) The natives always refused to give any information when asked about this building.

Whenever the natives came on board, if at all well dressed, they were asked into the cabin, where they were treated with cherry brandy and Constantia wine. In the course of conversation they generally contributed a number of new words to Mr. Clifford's Vocabulary, and in general, when they saw what the object in view was, they were very willing to lend their assistance, and took much pains to teach us the true pronunciation of their words. One man, however, who was not so intelligent as the rest, was in the cabin to-day for some time: Mr. Clifford was trying to get from him the Loo-choo adjectives for sour, sweet, salt, &c.; and in order to make him comprehend the questions, made him taste different things that were sour, sweet, and so on: the poor fellow bore all this very well, till some quassia was given to him in order to get the word "bitter;" this he no sooner tasted, than he ran off quite astonished at this singular mode of entertainment!

It blew so hard this morning, that there was but little intercourse with the shore; towards sunset, however, the wind moderated, and Ookooma, Jeema, and four other Chiefs, came on board, bringing with them a present of a bullock, two hogs, several goats, and some vegetables. The

Chief named Shayoon appeared to be the most clever of the party; he stood next in rank to Ookooma, but he nevertheless generally took the lead in all important discussions: he had a quick penetrating look, with a good deal more determination in his manner than any of the others. The Chiefs were very punctilious on occasions of ceremony to observe the order of precedence, and no one sat down till his superior was seated. When any subject was discussed, one at a time rose to speak, but not in order of rank; they never attempted to interrupt one another, nor showed the least impatience to speak while we were conversing.

Just as the conference was commencing, the weather began to look so stormy, that I did not like to be away from the Lyra, and accordingly went on board to prepare for a gale; by which I lost a very interesting conference with the chiefs. I learnt from Captain Maxwell afterwards, that he had taken this occasion to remonstrate with them on their inconsistency, and their pretended difficulty of getting answers from court; he gave them to understand, that he did not conceive it was treating the King of England with due re-

spect to deny his officers permission to walk on shore. Further, that they had promised to send pilots, but that none had come; and that many other of their promises had in like manner been neglected. He desired the interpreter to say, that he was not pleased with their telling him so many different stories, all of which could not be true; first they had said that the bullocks, hogs, &c. were gifts from themselves; then they asserted, that they were sent by the Great Man; next, that there was no Great Man here: in fine, he urged them strongly always to tell him the truth, and no longer to attempt to deceive him by such unworthy artifices. They made the interpreter repeat over six times what Captain Maxwell had desired him to say; and having consulted amongst themselves for a long time, at length assured Captain Maxwell, that a reply to the communications made by them to government would certainly reach them next day.

As the stock and vegetables received by the ships had, by this time, amounted to a considerable quantity, a bag of dollars was offered to the chiefs, who were urged to take payment for what had been sent on board; this offer, which had

been made more than once before, was still declined; upon which Captain Maxwell gave them to understand that he considered it not fitting for him, while serving the English government, to receive presents to such an extent from any individuals. When this was interpreted to them, they gave him a solemn assurance that the stock and other things had been sent on board by order of the Loo-choo government, on their being informed that the King of another country's ships had arrived: no payment, they said, could therefore be taken. With this explicit assurance Captain Maxwell rested satisfied. Their wish in this, as in every other instance, evidently was, to prevent our opening any communication with their government: they appeared so decided upon these matters, that we began seriously to apprehend they would probably succeed, notwithstanding all our efforts to the contrary.

The chiefs wear dresses adapted to the state of the weather; yesterday being cold and threatening, they all came on board with a sort of cloak or great coat made of a thick blue stuff like woollen cloth, buttoned in front. It is tighter than the ordinary dress, over which it is worn.

It is only in fine weather, and on state occasions, that they wear the band turban, called by them "hatchee matchee;" at all other times they go uncovered, having their hair dressed in a knot with pins, like the rest of the people.

20th of September.—The mercury in the barometer fell last night from 29. 72, to 29. 51, and the sky having assumed a yellow appearance, we expected to experience a heavy gale, more particularly as it was so near the equinox; but the ships were so well sheltered by the land, that although it may have blown hard at sea, we felt nothing of it where we lay.

Three or four canoes came round the south-west point of land this morning; the people in them were supposed to have come from the other side of the island, for they did not appear to have seen the ships before. One of these men was much delighted with a looking-glass which was shown to him; he took it in his hands, and calling his companions about him, showed them in turn its effect. Having done so several times, he held it opposite to his own face for several minutes without altering his countenance in the least; at last he smiled, and immediately and

involuntarily nodded assent to the image in the glass, which had so exactly expressed what at that instant he felt himself: he seemed, however, aware that it was a reflection of his own countenance, as he pointed from the image to himself; but notwithstanding this conviction, he could not restrain his curiosity, and actually looked behind the mirror; but instantly turned it round again, as if ashamed of having done so. While the glass was in his hands, he made us several long speeches, in which he frequently repeated the word "Kagung," the Loo-choo name for mirror; but we inferred from his behaviour, that he knew it by name alone. One of this party sold his "Jeewa" or head ornaments for a wine glass. Sometime afterwards, the others saw a bottle, which they wished to purchase in the same way; it was, however, given to them as a present, and they went away very well satisfied. These canoes were of pine, from twelve to twenty feet long, and from two to four wide; their anchor being made of wood loaded with stones.

As no answer came this morning from the Great Man, Captain Maxwell removed the ships into a more secure spot at the north-east corner of the bay: our first anchorage being close to a reef,

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and moreover open to the south-west winds, was not deemed safe. The place we had now shifted to, though apparently exposed, was, in fact, sheltered by a chain of reefs under water outside of us to the westward. By this change we were brought close to the bridge spoken of before, and lay now abreast of the east end of the town: the Lyra not being more than a quarter of a mile from the shore. A strict watch was always kept on the beach, so that no boat could leave the ships without being observed. Captain Maxwell ordered the whole anchorage to be carefully sounded; in doing this, the boats often approached the shore, and whenever this happened, a crowd of the natives, headed by one or other of the chiefs, repaired to the spot, and made signs for them to keep farther off.

21st of September.—There appears to be some embargo upon the canoes, for there has not been one near us this whole morning, and only one on board the Alceste. It was found necessary today to move the frigate still farther in shore, and four or five hawsers were laid out for the purpose of warping her ahead. While this operation was going on, the beach, and all the heights near us, were crowded with people, wondering, no

doubt, how the ship was made to move without sails, for the hawsers were low down, and might have escaped their observation. In the canoe which visited the Alceste there came two men, who had not been seen before; they remained but a short time, which they spent in examining the hawsers and the mode of warping the ship. As soon as they had made themselves masters of this subject, they went on shore, as if to make a report. During their visit they said little, being intent upon what was going on; but the interpreter learnt from one of them, that a "Great Man" had actually come, or was expected in the town to-day. A report prevails on board the ships, that the King of the island has lately been on board in disguise. We cannot trace the report to any good foundation, and it is probably false. At the same time, if his Majesty have any curiosity, it is not unlikely that he may come near enough to see such a strange sight as our great vessels must be to him.

As we are not allowed to land, we amuse ourselves by observing what is going on amongst the natives, by means of a telescope placed on a table on the Lyra's poop; and we write down what we see at the moment. The stone bridge appears to

be a great thoroughfare, several roads from the country leading to it; it seems also to be the only entrance to the town on this side. Nobody crosses it without stopping to look at us, and a crowd of idle people have this instant taken post on and about it. We see a number of women coming from the country with baskets on their heads. Their outer dress differs from that of the men; it is open in front, and is without a girdle: they have an under dress, or sack, which is also loose, but not open; in some we can see that this comes nearly to the feet, in others just to the knee, and we imagine that those who work in the fields wear the short dress: most of them allow their upper garment to flow out with the wind behind them. We observe a woman carrying a child across her hip as in India, with its hands on its mother's shoulder, while her arm is round the child's waist. One young lady has been seen for some time amusing herself by making a dog bark at the ships. We see women beating rice in wooden mortars. On the banks of the stream which the bridge crosses, there are a number of people washing clothes, which they perform in the Indian way, by dipping the clothes in water and beating them on stones. From one end of

the beach to the other there is a range of people watching us; they are formed here and there into groups; one of which, on a craggy knoll abreast of the ships, has struck us as being particularly interesting. A fine majestic-looking man, whose full beard and flowing garments remind us of a figure in the Cartoons of Raphael, is seen standing in the middle of a circle of old men, who are lying on the grass, and appear to be listening to him.

22nd of September.—This morning brings us no news, no permission to land! A number of flags and streamers are displayed on the masts of the vessels in the inner harbour, and there seems to be something going on on shore; no boats have come to us, and we have no occupation but looking through the glass, which, however, affords a good deal of entertainment, particularly as the people whom we see with it act in the usual way, being unconscious of our scrutiny.

In the afternoon a number of boats left the shore and proceeded to the Alceste in procession. In the foremost boat there seemed to be a person of consequence, whom we immediately conjectured to be the Great Man alluded to by the people yesterday. He had reached the Alceste before I

got on board, and the natives also having left their canoes, we found the ship's decks crowded with people. The Chief, whom we found seated in the cabin, was clothed in purple silk, with a light purple "hatchee matchee." An official communication of our history was now repeated at the old man's request. He listened with great attention till Captain Maxwell concluded his statement, by informing him that the ship was leaky and required frequent pumping. Upon which he begged permission to see the operation of pumping, if it would not give too much trouble. This being exactly what was desired, the chain-pumps were ordered to be got ready; and in the mean time the conference went on, consisting principally of compliments. Observing that we took notice of his being a little deaf, he seemed anxious to explain that this was the effect of age. He made us feel his pulse, and look at the withered state of his hand; then taking ours and feeling the pulse, held them up along with his own, and laughed with great good humour at the contrast which age had produced. He appeared to be about sixty years old, and his beard of thin hair was as white as snow: he had a cheerfulness of expression, and a liveliness of manner, which

were remarkable for a man of his years. His manners were those of a well bred person; and from the first he seemed quite at his ease. Every thing about him, in short, indicated such good-breeding, and familiarity with good society, that we could not help remarking his decided superiority over the other chiefs.

When the pumps were ready, he was conducted in state to the main-deck, where he sat for some time in great admiration of the machinery: on seeing the labour required to work it, he seemed really affected at our situation, which he naturally thought must be very bad, from the immense quantity of water thrown out by the pumps. The ship being upright, the water did not run off freely from the deck, and in a short time it flowed round the chair in which the old man was seated. Three or four of the sailors seeing him somewhat uneasy at this inundation, took him up in his chair, and placed him on a dry spot. The old gentleman, though surprised at this unexpected effort of politeness, was not displeased, and very graciously replied to the low bows which the sailors made him. On returning to the cabin, they were all entertained as usual with sweet wine, cherry brandy, and pipes. The old man filled pipes for us, and

as soon as this part of the ceremonial had been gone through, a formal request was made to him for permission to land the Alceste's casks and stores, in order to stop the leak and make other repairs. This produced a long discussion amongst the chiefs, in which the old man joined but little; he spoke, however, now and then, and whatever he did say, appeared to be to the purpose. Whenever the chiefs spoke, they rose and addressed themselves to him in a most respectful manner. At length, having agreed about an answer, they communicated to Captain Maxwell that there was no good place here for the purposes he wanted, and that as our present anchorage was unsafe, they recommended our going round to the harbour alluded to on a former occasion. At this place, which they called Oonting, he said we might put on shore whatever articles we chose to land. On our asking if in Oonting the water was deep enough to admit a large ship, a long discussion arose, during which they appeared to be reconsidering the merits of the harbour. They seemed apprehensive of giving it too high a character, and that on our reaching it we should be disappointed. The old man at length suggested sending the "little ship" to see whether it would

answer. To this Captain Maxwell agreed, only requesting that a person might accompany us, in order to save time in the search. Simple as this request may appear, they took a long time to consider of it, and ended by saying that no reply could be given till the next day.

While this subject was under discussion, the old man drew on a sheet of paper a chart of the island, and pointed out the place where the harbour lay. It proved afterwards, when we had surveyed the island, that this sketch possessed considerable accuracy, and it is much to be regretted that this curious manuscript has been lost.

The Chief now walked about the cabin, examined the globes, books, and pictures, with great attention. The wainscot struck him particularly, as well as the mechanism and the finish of the windows and sliding shutters. Captain Maxwell tried to make him comprehend our track on the globe. He had felt it becoming to preserve some state while business was going on, but he now became quite conversible and familiar. He went all over the ship, accompanied by the other chiefs, as well as by his own personal suite, which consisted of a pipe-bearer, a man who carried his large camp chair, another with a cover of red cloth for the

chair, and a man who carried a round Japan box for the hatchee-matchee. Two others took it in turn to fan him, and to hold his arm by the elbow and wrist whenever he walked about; probably as a piece of state, for the ship had scarcely any perceptible motion: these fanners were very expert at their business, for not content with cooling his face and neck, they lifted up his large sleeves and fanned his arms. On returning to the cabin, he saw Mr. Clifford using gloves, and begged leave to try them on; with the right one he succeeded very well, but the nails of his left hand being about an inch long, he found it not so easy a matter: he seemed to think them very odd things, and laughing much, held them up repeatedly to the other chiefs.

The old man brought a present for Captain Maxwell, and sent another to the Lyra, consisting of a hog, a kid, two bags of potatoes, a basket of charcoal, thirty bundles of eggs (five in each), a bundle of vermicelli, and a jar of a clear ardent spirit. All the chiefs, who were in their best attire, were severally accompanied by a man carrying a box for the hatchee-matchee. On rising to go away, the old man bowed to me, and said that he meant to visit my ship; but this being

evidently complimentary, I begged him not to take so much trouble: he, in return, expressed himself obliged to me for being satisfied with the offer of this attention. The barge was now manned to take him on shore, but as soon as he saw what was intended, he drew back, and declared that he could not land in any boat but his own. As it was supposed that his modesty prevented his accepting this offer, he was urged to overcome his scruples, and land in the manner proposed; he still, however, declined the honour, but at last went down the ladder, and having stepped into the barge, made a bow to Captain Maxwell, as if in acknowledgment of his attention, but immediately afterwards went into his own boat, and pushed off, under a salute of three guns from each ship.

Our intention of returning this visit the next day was not mentioned during the discussions in the cabin, from the certainty of its being combated, and perhaps overruled: but when the last of the chiefs was getting into the boat, the interpreter was desired to tell him, in a careless way, as if it were a matter of course, that next morning this visit would be returned on shore. As had been foreseen, this did not receive their

approbation; the interpreter went into the boat, where every persuasion was used to convince him of the impropriety of our intention: they could not succeed, however, in making him yield this point, and at length went away.

This interpreter is called "John" by all parties, and though merely an under servant of the factory at Canton, he is a very shrewd fellow. His English is certainly not the best, and probably the Chinese he speaks is the base provincial language of Canton; so that misunderstandings are no doubt often caused by his erroneous interpretation. John's report after the boat had put off, and from which we gather that we shall be expected, was as follows: "They ax me, 'what for my Ta-yin come sho?' I say, 'to make chin-chin (pay his respects to) they Ta-yin;' they tell me, 'You Ta-yin too much great mandarine, no can come sho;' I say, 'What for my Ta-yin no come sho? He great man; he Ta-wang-tee (his king) too much great man; he let you Ta-yin come board ship, and you no let him come sho, chin-chin you Ta-yin; what for this?' Then they speak long time together; by and by ax me, 'how many people bring sho you Ta-yin?' So I shake my head, I no like give answer

long time, they," (added he, archly,) "always take long time answer me! When they ax me again, I say, 'Ta-yin bring five people mo besides me.' They say, 'too much men come;' I say, 'No, no too much.' They ax, 'What time come?' I give no answer."

23d September.—As we had never contemplated being engaged in such adventures as these, we had made no preparations for them; and now that it was necessary to make some return to the Chief whom we were going to visit, we found great difficulty in preparing a suitable present. Captain Maxwell took with him several dozens of wine, some books, looking-glasses, various trinkets, and a large piece of blue broad cloth. I took half the quantity of Captain Maxwell's other presents, and a table cloth in place of the broad cloth. Smaller presents were also made up for each of the chiefs. At one o'clock we set out in the barge, with a large union jack flying; and as it blew fresh, we soon reached the harbour. As we rowed passed the shore, the people were seen running along all the roads leading to the town, so that by the time we reached the harbour, the crowd on both sides was immense: the trees, walls, and house tops, and in short every spot

from which we could be seen, was literally covered with people, forming a sight as striking and animated as can well be conceived. As we entered the harbour several of the chiefs came down to a point of land, and made signs by waving their hands, that we were to go round the end of a pier or mole, forming the inner harbour.

The chiefs helped us out, and then led us along, Ookooma taking Captain Maxwell's hand, Shayoon mine, and Jeema Mr. Clifford's; the others, according to their rank, conducted Mr. M'Leod of the Alceste, Mr. Maxwell, and another midshipman, Mr. Browne. They held our hands nearly as high as the shoulder, and conducted us along a lane formed through the crowd of people, who were perfectly silent. The children were placed in front, and the next rank sat down, so that those behind could see us in passing. At about a hundred and fifty yards from the landing-place, we came to the gate of a temple, where we were met by the Chief, who stood just on the outside of the threshold, on a small raised pavement: he took Ookooma's place, and conducted Captain Maxwell up a few steps into the temple, which was partly open on two sides, with deep verandahs, which made the interior

shady and cool. A large table, finely japanned, was spread, and two ornamented chairs were placed for us. The Chief seated himself at one end of the table, and placed Captain Maxwell on his left.

He expressed himself much gratified and honoured by the visit, asked our ages, and if we were married. He was greatly pleased with Captain Maxwell's account of his family, which happened nearly to correspond with his own. He guessed Mr. Maxwell's age to be twenty-seven, and was with difficulty persuaded to believe that a person six feet high could be only sixteen. The same mistake was made by all the natives, who invariably judged of the age of our young men by their height alone. An entertainment was now served, beginning with a light kind of wine, called sackee, which was handed round in very diminutive cups, filled by the Chief, called Issacha, from a small high pot in which the sackee was kept warm. They insisted on our emptying our cups, showing us a fair example themselves. During the whole feast the sackee never left the table, being considered apropos to all the strange dishes which we partook of. The first of these consisted of hard boiled eggs, cut into slices, the

outside of the white being coloured red. A pair of chopsticks * was now given to each person, and these were not changed during the feast. Next came fish fried in batter, which we found an excellent dish; then sliced smoked pork; next pig's liver sliced. After this, tea was handed round in cups of a moderate size; the tea was quite new, resembling, as some one observed, an infusion of hay. Pipes and tobacco served to fill up the short intervals between the courses. A man attended behind each of our chairs, whose sole business it was to fill and light the pipes. The next dish was the strangest of any, and disgusted most of the party; it consisted of a mass of coarse, soft, black sugar, wrapped up in unbaked dough, powdered over with rice flour, dyed yellow. This dish was certainly very unpalatable, and in all probability was one that had in the hurry of the moment been left uncooked. After this we had dishes of round cakes, like gingerbread nuts;

* Chopsticks are two pieces of ivory or wood, about a foot in length, of the thickness of a quill; they serve in China instead of a knife and fork, and are held in the right hand. Until the difficult art of holding them is attained, they are perfectly useless. The Chief at this feast, seeing that we made little progress, ordered sharp-pointed sticks to be brought, which he good humouredly recommended our using instead of the chopsticks.

LOO CHOO CHIEF with his TWO SONS.

then cakes made in the form of wreaths, and in a variety of other shapes. There was something like cheese given us after the cakes, but we could not form even a probable conjecture of what it was made. Most of the dishes were so good, that we made a hearty dinner long before the feast was over. The attendants, however, still brought in more; but the Chief, seeing that we did not eat, ordered away the dishes, and recommended the sackee to us. The old gentleman's eyes at length began to glisten, and observing that we felt the weather hot, he requested us to uncover, showing us the example himself. He then seized Mr. M^{c}Leod's cocked hat and put it on, while the doctor did the same with the Chief's hatchee-matchee. The oddity of the Chief's appearance produced by this change overcame the gravity of all present; and in particular excited the mirth of the Chief's two sons, who stood by his chair during all the entertainment: they were pretty little boys, with gaudy dresses, and their hair dressed in high showy topknots.

During the early part of the feast, our presents were brought in on trays, and laid before the Chief: the old man rose and saw them arranged,

he then made a graceful bow, and acknowledged his satisfaction, observing that we had sent him a great deal too much; and that as we had done him more honour than he was entitled to, he could not think of accepting the whole. This we considered matter of form, and in reply lamented our inability to make suitable presents; upon which he sat down and said no more. The other chiefs ran about, showing the lists of their presents to their friends among the crowd.

The room in which this entertainment was given was at first open on two sides only, but afterwards the partitions on the other two sides were taken down, being contrived to slide in grooves, in such a manner that the rooms might be enlarged or diminished at pleasure. When the partition behind us was removed, several strange looking figures made their appearance, who we found were Bodezes or priests. Their heads and faces were shaved, their feet bare, and their dress was different from that worn by the rest of the people; being somewhat shorter, and much less free and flowing, without any belt round the waist, the robe being merely tightened a little by a drawing string tied at the side; over their shoulders hung an embroidered band or belt, shaped like

that used by our drummers: the colour of their dress was not uniform, some wearing black, others yellow, and some deep purple. They had all a timorous, patient, subdued look, with a languid smile, and ghastly expression of countenance. They seemed lower in stature than the other natives, and looked unhealthy; they all stooped more or less, and their manners were totally devoid of gracefulness. Along with the Bodezes were several boys, whom we took to be their children from the resemblance which they bore to these unhappy looking persons; but this was a mistake produced by the similarity in dress of these young priests, for the Bodezes are strictly confined to a life of celibacy. From the circumstance of our being in a temple, as well as from our general habits of paying respect to persons filling sacred stations, we naturally felt at first disposed to treat these Bodezes with attention, but this was looked upon as ridiculous by the chiefs, who, observing that we bowed to the priests, entreated us to take no further notice of them. Instead of being the class most respected, they are considered the lowest, and appear to be neglected by all other ranks.

During all the time we were at table, the

crowd pressed round the verandahs, and perched themselves upon the walls and house-tops in the vicinity, or wherever they could get a peep at us. The satisfaction here was mutual, for we were as anxious to make the most of the opportunity as they could be, not knowing if we should ever be allowed to land again. After sitting for two hours we rose, and were escorted to the boats in the same order as when we landed. An attempt had been made during the feast, at a moment when the whole party were in the greatest good humour, to prevail upon the old gentleman to sanction our taking a walk into the town; but the bare mention of such a thing, sobered the whole party so instantaneously that the subject was immediately dropped. The sailors, who had been kept in the boats for fear of their giving offence, had not been neglected by the Chief, for he had sent them part of the feast; nor did it seem that they had any objection to the sackee. We looked anxiously on the right and left as we passed through the crowd, in hopes of seeing some of the women, but in this expectation we were disappointed. At a considerable distance indeed, on the opposite side of the harbour, we saw a group of

women, several of whom came down the causeway to obtain a better view of the boats as they passed. Six or eight young girls ran to the pier head, round some rocks near the end, so as to reach this spot just as we rowed past; they looked quite frightened at finding themselves so near us, and immediately drew back out of our sight. We fancied that we could discover a good deal of beauty in some of their faces, and that their figures were handsome; but as we had not seen a fair lady's face for nearly half a year before, our judgment in this case is not perhaps to be depended on. Ookooma and his associates put off to accompany us in one of their own boats, but as it blew hard, they came no farther than the pier head: Jeeroo, however, was sent along with us, to see that there were no stray sheep.

What is to follow next is uncertain, but it is clear that we have made little progress of late, while fresh obstacles have been hourly rising against our landing; in the meantime, the Loo-chooans show no little sagacity and kindness of disposition in supplying us liberally with all kinds of stock.

24th of September.—Last night and to-day it blew a hard gale of wind, beginning at north

north-east, and shifting to north-west, but the reefs and the land broke its force, and enabled us to ride in perfect security: in all probability it blew more severely in the open sea. The barometer fell from 29. 62, to 29. 50, yesterday; in the evening it had reached 29. 48, and this morning stood at 29. 40. About four in the morning it began to rise rapidly, and the severity of the gale did not come on till it had risen considerably. The thermometer both in the day and night stood at 82°, with very little variation, but the sky being constantly clouded, no observations could be made.

25th of September.—Jeeroo came on board this morning with a present of vegetables and fruit, and afterwards went on board the Alceste to join Ookooma and Jeema. They had preceded him with a present from the Chief, by whose desire they made a number of kind inquiries, and repeatedly expressed, in his name, surprise and satisfaction at our having been able to ride out the gale. They also apologised for not visiting us yesterday, which, indeed, the gale had rendered impossible. It was represented in the conference to-day, that our limbs were getting quite stiff for want of exercise, and that it be-

came absolutely necessary for us to land, on account of our health: they debated amongst themselves for some time, and then said that a final answer would be given to-morrow. They seemed to have quite forgotten their promise to send a pilot for the harbour to the northward: they wished also that we should forget it, since they changed the subject whenever it was spoken of, and affected total ignorance of our meaning. The government probably thought it best to keep us where we were, and therefore discouraged our investigating the island any further.

Jeeroo, who begins to get quite familiar with us all, is a laughing good humoured man, about thirty: he shakes every one cordially by the hand when he comes on board, and engages in all our amusements with great cheerfulness. He is very useful to us, because the anxiety he has to learn English makes him communicate freely the knowledge of his own language: thus there is little difficulty in fixing him over a glass of Constantia, upon which occasions he contributes largely to Mr. Clifford's vocabulary. Some of our words the Loo-chooans cannot pronounce; the letter *l* preceded by *c* appears the most difficult; they call Clifford "Criffar," and even

this after many efforts: not one of the natives has yet been able to make any thing of child: they call it shoidah, choiah, and chyad.

26th of September.—No boats came near us to-day, and we might readily have landed, if we had chosen it; in fact, a single boat's crew, for all that we saw, might have overrun the island; but Captain Maxwell was resolved to use no means but those of patience, gentleness, and forbearance.

27th of September.—As we were still prevented from going on shore, we amused ourselves by examining a reef which forms the north side of the anchorage. We found a field of coral about half a mile square, dry at low water, with the surf breaking very high on the outer edge, which lies exposed to the waves from the north. The surface of the rock is every where worn into small holes, which being left full of water as the tide goes out, are occupied by a number of beautiful blue fish. The coral is exceedingly hard, and though at many places it sticks up in sharp points, it requires a hammer of considerable weight to break it, and in a short time it entirely defaces the hammer. This extent of level space suggested the idea of measuring a base on it in

order to survey the anchorage, since there appeared so little chance of our being allowed to land for this, or any other purpose on the beach.

While we were deliberating on this matter, we had a striking proof of the inconvenience to which we were likely to be exposed during this survey, by the tide rising and fairly washing us off. Notwithstanding this, we determined to commence next morning, and returned to make preparations, in high spirits at the prospect of an occupation, if not on terra firma, at least out of the ship, within whose sides we had been confined so long. On returning, we found that Captain Maxwell had arranged a party to visit the small island and reef which we were so nearly shipwrecked on the 14th instant; the survey was therefore postponed.

Jeeroo sent us off some fresh fish to-day; some were red, and one or two blue: he came himself afterwards, and was happy to find us much gratified by his present. A formal message was sent to-day to the chiefs in attendance, stating that both ships were in want of fresh water, and that the boats must go on shore with casks to bring some off. In a short time after this message had been delivered, a number of canoes came

alongside with large tubs of water; a strong proof of their address in getting rid of all our excuses for landing; and at the same time, it must be owned, of their readiness to supply our wants.

An elderly gentleman, not a chief, visited us to-day, accompanied by his secretary. His appearance and manners being greatly in his favour, we paid him all the attention in our power. His wish was to be permitted to go all over the ship at his leisure; and in this way he examined every thing on board with far more attention than any body had done before him. His secretary, who was equally inquisitive, accompanied him in order to take notes. He employed himself for about six hours in examining the upper deck, and never quitted any thing till he understood its use.

The old man next came down to the cabin, where he remained a long time examining the books and furniture, and occasionally engaging in conversation with Mr. Clifford, for whose Vocabulary he supplied many new words, and corrected others which had been written down erroneously. He would not accept any thing valuable, but was grateful for samples of rope, canvas, and cloth. This old gentleman renewed

his examination of the brig next day; nor was it till the third day that he completed his survey.

While he was thus occupied, he was attended by the sailors, who were pleased with his reverend appearance, and very readily assisted the old man in his inquiries. It was interesting, indeed, to observe how early the gentle and engaging manners of all classes here won the hearty good will of the sailors, no less than that of the officers. The natives from the very first were treated with entire confidence; no watch was ever kept over them, nor were they excluded from any part of the ships; and not only was nothing stolen, but when any thing was lost, nobody even suspected for an instant that it had been taken by them.

28th of September.—At sunrise we set out for Reef Island, which lies about six miles west from the anchorage: we reached it in about an hour, but as it was low water, the coral was left almost bare for a considerable way out, and our large boat could not get near the beach. In this dilemma we took possession of a canoe which was lying at anchor, and in several trips all the party landed. Near a hut we saw about a dozen

people who stood looking at us till we landed, and then ran away, leaving their tobacco-pipes, pouches, and various other things on the ground about the hut, in which we found a pot of boiled sweet potatoes and several jars of water. Having, in vain, tried to allay the apprehensions of the natives by waving to them, to induce them to approach us, we sat down to breakfast; which we had hardly done, when two of them, an old man and a boy, came to the door of our tent and prostrated themselves before us, apparently in great alarm, for they answered incoherently, "ooa" (yes) to every question we asked them. At last we raised the old man on his knees, but he would not quit this posture till we gave him a glass of rum, which re-assured him a little, and shortly afterwards he consented to stand on his legs. Having thus gradually gained confidence, he made signs that we had taken his canoe: upon which an order was given to the coxswain to restore it. He guessed immediately what was said, and in the joy of his heart was proceeding to prostrate himself again, but was stopped by our holding out buttons and some pieces of meat and bread to him, which he received in both

hands, and touching his head with the presents, made three low obeisances, and retired.

On rising from breakfast we found, near the tent, about a dozen natives, who, in most respects, resembled our friends at Napakiang, but were not so neatly dressed; and their hair, instead of being formed into a knot, was allowed to fly loose. During the morning the party amused themselves in various ways. Some took their guns and went in search of curlews and sea-snipes: others set out to explore the reefs; and two or three remained near the tent, for the purpose of making observations on the sun at noon; but as it became cloudy about this time, the latter party failed in their object. The rest were more successful; the sportsmen having shot some game for dinner; and the other party having found all things favourable for inspecting the reef.

The examination of a coral reef during the different stages of one tide, is particularly interesting. When the tide has left it for some time it becomes dry, and appears to be a compact rock, exceedingly hard and ragged; but as the tide rises, and the waves begin to wash over it, the coral worms protrude themselves from

holes which were before invisible. These animals are of a great variety of shapes and sizes, and in such prodigious numbers, that, in a short time, the whole surface of the rock appears to be alive and in motion. The most common worm is in the form of a star, with arms from four to six inches long, which are moved about with a rapid motion in all directions, probably to catch food. Others are so sluggish, that they may be mistaken for pieces of the rock, and are generally of a dark colour, and from four to five inches long, and two or three round. When coral is broken, about high water mark, it is a solid hard stone, but if any part of it be detached at a spot which the tide reaches every day, it is found to be full of worms of different lengths and colours, some being as fine as a thread and several feet long, of a bright yellow, and sometimes of a blue colour: others resemble snails, and some are not unlike lobsters in shape, but soft, and not above two inches long.

The growth of coral appears to cease when the worm is no longer exposed to the washing of the sea. Thus a reef rises in the form of a cauliflower, till its top has gained the level of the highest tides, above which the worm has no

power to advance, and the reef of course no longer extends itself upwards. The other parts, in succession, reach the surface, and there stop, forming in time a level field with steep sides all round. The reef, however, continually increases, and being prevented from going higher, extends itself laterally in all directions. But this growth being as rapid at the upper edge as it is lower down, the steepness of the face of the reef is still preserved. These are the circumstances which render coral reefs so dangerous in navigation; for, in the first place, they are seldom seen above the water; and, in the next, their sides are so steep, that a ship's bows may strike against the rock before any change of soundings has given warning of the danger.

Reef Island at high water is formed into three parts, which at low water are joined by dry reefs; the whole being about two and a half or three miles from east to west, and tolerably clear of rocks on the south side; but on the north it is guarded by a semicircle of coral extending upwards of a mile from the shore. On the centre island there was seen only one hut, which, as there was reason to believe it to be the actual

abode of the inhabitants, it may be allowable to describe. The walls were sunk under ground, so that only the roof appeared from without; the inside was fifteen feet by six: the walls of neatly squared stones, being two feet high, and the roof in the middle about six or seven high, formed of a ridge pole supported in the centre by a forked stick; the rafters of rough branches were covered with reeds, and thatched over with the leaf of the wild pine-apple, which grows on all the coral islands. The fire-place was at one end on a raised part of the floor, and the other end appeared to be the sleeping-place. It was conjectured that this wretched hovel could only be meant as a temporary residence of the fishermen, whose nets we saw lying about; but the number of water jars and cooking utensils which we found in and about it gave it the appearance of a more permanent habitation.

It was almost dark when we quitted the island, and the tide carrying us out of our proper course, we missed the ships and grounded on the reefs near the town; but as the tide was flowing, we easily got off, and by coasting along, soon gained the anchorage.

Sunday, 29th of September.—This day is memorable, on account of its being the first on which we were permitted to land.

Yesterday when we were absent at Reef Island, the chiefs came on board to say that we might land, but that our walk must be confined to the beach, and that we were neither to enter the town, nor to go into the country. At one o'clock several of the chiefs came on board and accompanied us to the beach, where we landed amidst an immense crowd, and were handed along by Ookooma and the rest, who, in their desire to be very civil, held us most incommodiously by the arms. The day, however, being excessively hot, and the sand deep, we found this so troublesome, that we begged leave to walk alone, to which they reluctantly consented, and we proceeded along the beach for a quarter of a mile.

Beginning to get tired of our walk, we stopped and expressed some surprise at such a reception, and told them how disagreeable it was to be exposed to the sun at such an hour. But our remonstrances did not produce much effect, for, on our objecting particularly to the heat, they showed us to a sort of cave in a rock on the beach, where they put down a mat and wished

us to drink tea in the shade, since we disliked the sun. This could not be submitted to, however, and we told them that our object in landing was not to sit down on the beach to drink tea, but to walk about under the trees, in order to recover our health, impaired by a long stay on board ship. They tried all their eloquence to persuade us that our walk, thus limited, was perfectly pleasant; till at length Captain Maxwell gave them to understand, that he wished to go to the top of the hills under the trees; but that, as he did not mean to advance a single step beyond what was approved of by the natives, he would return instantly to the ship if they persisted in confining him to the beach. A consultation was held upon this, during which frequent reference was made to several elderly men, whose opinions appeared to have great weight. They did not wear the dress of chiefs, but, from all that passed, we suspected them to be persons belonging to the court, who had been sent to assist the councils of the local commissioners without superseding their authority. They at last agreed to our going to the top of the hill, taking the precaution, before we set out, of sending forward a couple of runners, probably

to give warning to any women who might be in that direction. About half way up the road, which winds along a steep face, we came to a neatly-built well, supplied by a stream which runs along a carved water-course; near it were three or four rudely carved stones about a foot long and four inches across, with slow matches and a small quantity of rice laid upon each. Mr. Clifford distinctly made out that this was meant as a religious offering, but its precise object could not be discovered, though it was conjectured that the guardian deity of the well might have some title to the honour. The side of the hill was cut into horizontal irregular terraces, cultivated with much care, and irrigated by means of ditches leading from the well. On gaining the brow of the hill which overlooks the anchorage, the chiefs stopped, but as we were within a few yards of the summit, where we saw a shady grove, we begged them to proceed, to which, after a short deliberation, they consented. By gaining this eminence, we commanded a view of an extensive valley more beautiful than any thing we had yet seen; and on the side opposite to us we saw the large building spoken of before, generally suspected to be

the King's palace: but our questions on this subject were always answered in so evasive a manner, and with such apparent distress, that we seldom made any allusion either to the palace or to its royal inmate.

We remained under the trees for about an hour, drinking tea and smoking pipes in company with all the chiefs, besides four or five of the old men mentioned before. We amused them by lighting their pipes with a burning glass; but one old gentleman, who suspected some trick, and did not join in the surprise shown by the rest, held out his hand that it might be exposed to the focus; he was soon undeceived, to the great amusement of the circle. The magnifying power of the glass strongly engaged their attention, but it did not produce the same effect on them all: a start and an exclamation of pleased surprise was the most usual effect: some of them laughed immoderately at every experiment; while others became thoughtful, and looked exceedingly puzzled, though they had not been particularly serious before. When their admiration of the glass was at the highest point we presented it to Jeeroo, whose good-will it was thought expedient to conciliate; he had not expected this

attention, and seemed to feel much obliged to us for so public a mark of our esteem.

A man on horseback happening to ride by, it was gravely suggested to the chiefs that nothing would so materially contribute to the establishment of our health as this species of exercise; but they insisted upon treating our remark as a mere joke. On our return an attempt was made to vary the walk by turning to the left on reaching the brow of the hill, and so walking along the edge of the cliff to another road: the chiefs observed upon this that we should infallibly tumble down and kill ourselves; affecting, notwithstanding the absurdity of any such apprehensions, to be greatly distressed at our danger: so we turned back, after having had a short interview with an old man seated in a shed on the edge of the precipice. His white beard, which covered his breast, suited well with his sedate and contemplative air, and gave him much the aspect of a hermit. Our appearance did not in the least discompose him, nor did he take any notice of us till desired to do so by Ookooma; he then bowed slightly, but immediately resumed his fixed look, as if he had been quite alone.

As we drew near to the place where we had

landed, our companions surprised us by an invitation to a feast, prepared, they said, on our account in a temple close to the shore. Here they regaled us with painted eggs, smoked salt pork, and various preparations of eggs and fish, with sweet cakes in numberless forms, besides tea, pipes, and sackee, a light kind of wine made hot. Nothing could be more cheerful than they all were to-day; they placed us on the floor at the upper end of the room, and, for some time, would not allow us to stir from that spot; but Mr. Clifford, who, from the progress he had made in their language, had become a great favourite, was invited to join a merry party in the verandah, who brought him flowers, fruits, and every thing they could think of, in order to learn from him their English names, and give him in return those of Loo-choo.

On reaching the boats, Jeeroo and two of his friends seemed disposed to accompany us on board; they were accordingly invited to do so, which gratified him so much, that he untied a rudely-carved ivory ornament, in the shape of a monkey, from his tobacco-pouch, and gave it to me. Dinner was on table when we reached the Lyra, but there was time before taking my

friends below, to intimate to my servant (without Jeeroo's perceiving that I had done so), that these gentlemen were going to dine with me; so that when we reached the cabin, three plates were laid in addition. As they had of course not expected to find dinner ready for them on board, they expressed great surprise at these preparations having been made, and would not sit down for some time, supposing that others were coming. When the covers were removed, they became silent, and looked on either hand for directions how to proceed. On being helped to soup, they did not stir till they saw us take spoons, in the management of which they really showed but little awkwardness. The knife and fork gave them more trouble, but they set seriously about acquiring a knowledge of their use, and, in a short time, found no difficulty in helping themselves as we did.

The grave propriety of these natives on this occasion is the more worthy of remark, from its standing in some measure opposed to our own behaviour under similar circumstances: for instance, when we first tried to eat with their chopsticks, there was often a sort of giggling embarrassment shown by some of us, in contempt, as it

were, of ourselves, for condescending to employ an effort to acquire the use of things apparently so unimportant: even their diminutive cups and odd dishes sometimes excited mirth amongst us. Our Loo-choo friends, however, never forgot the rules of decorum in this way; a difference of behaviour which may perhaps have arisen from their looking upon us as their superiors, and vice versâ; but even admitting this, which we were sufficiently disposed to do, it is certainly but a poor excuse for us.

On this occasion Jeeroo and his friends had evidently made up their minds to find every thing quite new, for all three made a slight involuntary exclamation when one of the covers was lifted up, and showed them a dish of their own sweet potatoes. They ate of every thing, using a great deal of salt, with the fineness and whiteness of which they were much pleased. A tart, however, being put on the table, they all objected at first to touching it; they would not say why: they were at length prevailed upon to taste it, which they had no sooner done, than they exclaimed that it was "massa! massa!" (good! good!) It was made of Scotch marmalade, and Jeeroo, in recommending it to his friends, told them it was

"injássa, amása," (bitter, sweet), a union which does not appear to obtain in Loo-Choo cookery. They drank wine with us, but said they feared it would make them tipsy; upon which we taught them our mode of mixing it with water, which was evidently new to them, for they relished it so much in this form, that they were in a fair way of running unconsciously into the very excess they had apprehended. As soon as the cloth was removed, they rose, and went to walk about the ship: on our expressing a wish to accompany them, they intreated us to keep our seats.

During this dinner, though it was the first they had ever seen in the European style, these people not only betrayed no awkwardness, but adopted our customs, such as drinking wine with each other, so readily, that we were frequently at a loss to determine whether they had but just learned these customs, or whether their own usages in these cases were actually similar to ours. As they pushed off in their boat they were asked to sing, which they did at once; and by their manner of addressing us, we suspected that the song had some allusion to ourselves, but we could not make out the words.

30th of September.—During the whole of this

morning Mr. Clifford and I were engaged in the survey, accompanied by several of the midshipmen from both ships. We measured a base, and continued taking angles till the tide rose and drove us off the reef.

1st of October.—As a free intercourse was now established with the natives at this place, and little doubt remained of our being able to gain their permission in a day or two for landing the Alceste's stores, it became an object of consequence to ascertain, without further delay, whether or not this anchorage was better than the harbour, described by the natives as being a few miles only to the northward. While any apprehensions existed of our not being able to land here, it was not thought prudent to send the Lyra to look for that harbour, lest the chiefs should become still more suspicious of our intentions. At this moment, however, when there was reason to believe that the chiefs wished the Alceste to remain where she was, it was expected that any show of moving to another harbour would have the effect of stimulating their exertions to render our present situation as agreeable and convenient as possible.

The Lyra was accordingly ordered to weigh this morning at daylight, for the purpose of ex-

amining the coast for ten or twelve leagues to the northward. We sailed out of the anchorage by a narrow passage through the reefs, and in the course of the morning beat up to Sugar Loaf Island. We did not land upon it, but passed near enough to see that it was richly cultivated on the lower parts, and that all the houses were collected into villages, shaded as usual by large trees extending all round the base, and for a third of the way up the sides of the peak. As this was to be our furthest point in the present survey, we tacked on reaching the Sugar Loaf, and coasted round the shores of a large square bay on the west side of the great island. The wind shifted gradually as we sailed along, blowing directly off the shore at every place, by which means we were enabled to complete the circuit of the bay before dark; after which we anchored in sixty-five fathoms water. Next morning we resumed our examination of the coast; and the weather being fine, we hoisted out a boat and pulled close along the shore, while the Lyra kept her course at the distance of several miles. In this manner we traced the whole shore, till we came close to Napakiang, without seeing any port. We tried to land at several places, but were every where kept

off by coral reefs stretching along the coast, at the distance of two or three hundred yards, and forming, to strangers at least, an impenetrable barrier. The canoes of the natives paddled away from us, and passed through the reefs by passages which we could not approach on account of the surf. We returned to the brig about two o'clock, and at three anchored in our former place at Napakiang.

The departure of the Lyra had excited a great sensation on shore; the chiefs came off, and anxiously inquired of Captain Maxwell where the "honee gua" (little ship) was; but he did not choose to satisfy them, except by saying that they had trifled with him so long, and so obstinately refused to let him land his casks and stores, that he must now endeavour to find some more favourable place at which to refit his ship. The effect was exactly what he wished; they intreated him not to think of moving from Napakiang; offered him not only large boats to put his stores in, but said he should have store-rooms on shore for whatever he desired, while his ship was refitting. They moreover granted him permission to land with his officers whenever he pleased, and to go to the top of the hill without being guarded as formerly.

On the Lyra's anchoring, the chiefs came on board in great agitation, desiring to know what we had discovered. As we had actually nothing to relate, there was little difficulty in keeping our secret. They accompanied me on board the Alceste when I went to make my report, but Captain Maxwell, having found the advantage he had already gained by keeping them in ignorance of his intentions, was not at all communicative. They now offered to allow his people to land for the purpose of washing their clothes, which they had before refused to do; and, in short, were in a mood to grant him any thing, provided we would agree to remain at this part of the island. They did not pretend that this was out of regard for us, and it was easy to see that they apprehended more trouble in managing us any where else than at this place. Amongst the arguments used by them to dissuade us from going to the other end of the island, they said it was inhabited by savages. It came out accidentally too, that in the event of the ships actually proceeding to other parts of the island, the six chiefs were to accompany us: so that they were probably influenced by considerations of personal convenience to make every exertion to prevent our moving.

3d of October.—The Lyra's crew were allowed to go on shore to-day to wash their clothes, and amuse themselves by running about on the side of the hill. Two of the sailors of this party, who happened to be singing near the well, drew a number of natives round them, who expressed great pleasure at hearing their songs. At first the crowd consisted entirely of the peasantry, who listened with great attention, and never interrupted the sailors; but in about half an hour, a person of some rank, with a number of attendants, came up, and begged them to sing several of their songs over again: we could not find out who this person was, but it was probably one of the chiefs, some of whom are remarkably fond of our music.

4th of October.—The survey on the reef was completed to-day: the only inconvenience we had experienced here was the limited time which the tide allowed us each day, otherwise the situation was well adapted for a base, from its commanding a view of all parts of the anchorage. During the progress of the principal survey, the young gentlemen sent by Captain Maxwell, in conjunction with the midshipmen of the Lyra, completed a survey of the reef itself. A native of a most engaging appearance, but not in the dress of a

chief, visited the Lyra to-day, and gave me a present of two pipes and two bags of sweet potatoes.

As we had frequent opportunities of seeing their method of making salt at this place, an account of it may, perhaps, be interesting. Near the sea, large level fields are rolled or beat so as to have a hard surface. Over this is strewn a sort of sandy black earth, forming a coat about a quarter of an inch thick. Rakes and other implements are used to make it of a uniform thickness, but it is not pressed down. During the heat of the day, men are employed to bring water in tubs from the sea; this is repeatedly sprinkled over the fields by means of a short scoop. The heat of the sun, in a short time, evaporates the water, and the salt is left in the sand, which is scraped up and put into raised receivers of masonry about six feet long, by four wide, and five deep. When the receiver is full of sand, thus prepared, sea-water is poured on the top, and this, in its way down, carries with it the salt left by evaporation. When it runs out below at a small hole, it is a very strong brine; this is reduced to salt by being boiled in vessels about three feet wide and one deep. The cakes

resulting from this operation are an inch and a half in thickness.

5th of October.—Captain Maxwell called for me this morning at sunrise, on his way to the shore. The chiefs had not expected us so early, and our only companion for some time after we landed was an old peasant, who now and then ran on before to give notice of our approach. Two well dressed persons shortly afterwards came up, and continued with us during our walk, which at first lay along the beach, but afterwards led us into the country; some exception was taken to this change in the direction of our walk by our companions, but as we paid no attention to what they said, they soon desisted.

After walking about a mile, we passed through a grove of young trees, and found ourselves close to a village, lying in the bottom of a highly-cultivated glen, the houses being almost entirely hid by bamboos and other trees.

This village is surrounded by a close bamboo hedge; and each house also has a separate inclosure: some of the houses have attached to them neat arbours, formed of a light framework of bamboo covered with a variety of creepers. The

fields are divided from one another by small embankments of earth, made to retain the water, and along the top of each bank there runs a footpath; the whole valley having much the air of a scene in India. A number of the villagers, accompanied by their children, came out to meet us, but there were no women amongst them. As they were evidently averse to our entering the village, we passed on.

Their mode of dressing the ground is neat, and resembles the Chinese, particularly in manuring and irrigating it. This is most attended to where the sugar-cane is cultivated: they raise besides tobacco, wheat, rice, Indian corn, millet, sweet potatoes, brinjals, and many other vegetables. Along the sides of the hills, and round the villages, the bamboo and rattan grow to a considerable size. The pine is the most conspicuous tree on the island, growing to a great height and size, which we infer from seeing canoes built with planks several feet wide; the trees, however, near the temple at Napakiang were not above seventy feet high, and from three to four in girt. The banyan-tree of India was seen at several places; the finest one overhung the small temple at Na-

pakiang, which circumstance led to the inquiry whether, as in India, this tree was here held sacred, but we could gain no information on this subject.

The cattle on this island are of a small black breed, and are used exclusively for agricultural purposes. Hogs, goats, and poultry, with rice, and a great variety of vegetables, form the food of the inhabitants: milk is never used. We saw no geese, so that those left by Captain Broughton most probably did not thrive. They have no sheep nor asses. Their horses are small and slender, but sufficiently strong for the natives, who appear to be very fond of riding. We saw no carts or wheeled carriages of any kind, the horses being used to carry loads; for this purpose the roads are numerous, and kept in excellent order, being from six to ten feet wide.

On our way across the valley we were attracted by the appearance of a cottage, so buried in foliage as to be completely hid from our view till we were within a few paces of the door. It was surrounded by a slight fence of rods, about an inch apart, with a line of creepers along the top, and hanging down on both sides: a wicker gate admitted us, and we entered the house, which we found divided

into two apartments, eight feet square, besides a small verandah at one end. The floor, which was made of elastic slips of bamboo, was raised about six inches from the ground, and covered with a straw mat. The walls were five feet high, being neatly wattled with split bamboo, above which rose a pointed thatched roof. The cottage was occupied by an old man, whom we appeared to have disturbed at breakfast, for cups and tea-things, and hot water, were arranged in proper order on the floor. He asked us very kindly to sit down, giving us pipes, tea, and sweet cakes. The little apartment we were in was as neat as any thing could be conceived: on one side there was a set of shelves, with cups, bowls, and cooking utensils, all bright and clean: on the other sides were hung various implements of husbandry, with hats and various dresses: higher up there was a sort of loft or garret, formed by bamboo poles, laid horizontally from the top of the walls; on this were placed various working tools, nets, and baskets. The fire-place was in the middle of one side, and sunk below the level. On the outside, in the space between the house and the fence, there was a pigeon-house and a poultry-yard, and close to the little verandah spoken of

before there stood two spinning-wheels of a light and ingenious construction. All round on the outside of the fence, the trees were high and thick; and though the sun was well above the hills, the house was completely shaded except at the end, where a small opening admitted a stream of light into the verandah. We staid some time with the old peasant, trying to express our admiration of the simplicity, beauty, and comfort of his cottage; and he appeared unaffectedly pleased with our commendations of his home.

On returning we discovered a road like a dressed walk in a garden: following this, we passed through a series of beautiful groves of bamboo and other trees, till at length, after winding about a good deal, we came to a double row of tall pine trees, interspersed with many others whose names we did not know, so as to form a fine shady walk. This road we suspected would lead to the town, and therefore to avoid it, when we had gained the highest point we turned to the right, and after a short walk reached the grove of trees which had been made the limit to our first walk on the 29th of last month. At this place Captain Maxwell surprised the natives a good deal by shooting several birds on the wing, but they could not be

prevailed upon to fire his gun themselves, nor could any persuasions induce them to pull the trigger even when no powder was in the pan.

In the course of the day the chiefs waited upon Captain Maxwell; he saw they were very unhappy at something which had passed, as they spoke with agitation and alarm, seemingly apprehensive of incurring his displeasure: but it was some time before he could prevail upon them to speak out, and say what it was that had discomposed them. At length, after many apologies, they gravely stated (to Captain Maxwell's great relief, who feared something very disastrous had occurred), that the Loo-choo people were much distressed at seeing their little birds shot; and would take it as the greatest kindness if neither Captain Maxwell, nor any of his people, would in future kill their favourites. They had been accustomed from their infancy, they said, to see the birds perching on their house-tops, and hopping about without fear amongst their children, and that it had shocked all the natives to see them so cruelly put to death.

Captain Maxwell, instead of treating this infantine request with ridicule, assured them in the most solemn manner, that he was exceedingly

sorry for what had passed; and to set their minds completely at rest on this important point, he immediately, and in their presence, wrote an order forbidding any person belonging to the ships to fire at the birds during our stay at Loo-choo.

Sunday, 6th of October.—After divine service to-day on board the Alceste, a long conference was held between Captain Maxwell and the five chiefs, when, after a good deal of discussion, it was agreed on their part to allow the Alceste's stores to be landed, for the purpose of getting at the leak. Our means of interpreting on these occasions were unfortunately not the best that could be wished; but John, our Chinese, was nevertheless a shrewd fellow, and very ready with evasive answers when hard pressed. We generally explained as fully as possible to John what our wishes were, and then left him to communicate them in the best way he could. An instance of his quickness occurred to-day, which seems worth mentioning. John had communicated to them, by Captain Maxwell's desire, that as the leak complained of was in the magazine, it would be necessary to land the powder: they debated a long time upon this point, and then asked John "why the powder might not be put on board the

little ship?" John, who was not aware of any good reason why this should not be done, affected to be surprised at this question, which he absolutely refused to interpret, saying that if Captain Maxwell had thought such a measure right, he would surely not have waited till it was suggested by the chiefs. The light in which he had thus put the question made them earnestly entreat him not to mention any thing about it to Captain Maxwell, declaring at the same time, that they would willingly give a place for the powder, and for any other stores which he might wish to land.

To-day for the first time they talked unreservedly of the king, whose name they had hitherto studiously avoided mentioning: they spoke freely of his majesty's having sent all the stock and vegetables with which we were daily supplied. Captain Maxwell, who of course was very desirous of opening a communication with the court, intimated his wish to pay his respects to the king as soon as might be convenient. They heard this with apparent satisfaction, and signified that his request should be made known to the king. We were at a loss to discover what could have caused this immense change in their diplomacy, and could only conjecture, that perhaps the king,

on hearing so many reports about us, might really have become desirous of seeing us himself. At all events it was clear that some alteration in the instructions to the chiefs must have been made, otherwise they would have shown their usual reserve when the king's name was mentioned, and above all, would on no account have allowed us to talk of visiting him.

At one o'clock we went on shore to look at the place assigned by the chiefs for the reception of the Alceste's stores. It was an oblong inclosure, sixty yards by forty, surrounded by a wall twelve feet high, rather well built with squared blocks of coral: the entrance was by a large gate on the south side, from which there extended raised gravel walks, bordered by clipped hedges, the intermediate spaces being laid out in beds, like a garden. The temple in which we were feasted on the day of our first visit occupied one corner of the inclosure, and was completely shaded by a grove of fine trees, which also overhung the inclosing wall. In that part of the garden directly opposite to the gate, at the upper end of the walk there stood a smaller temple, nearly hid by the branches of several large banyan trees; and before it, at the distance of ten or twelve paces, a

square awkward looking building, with a raised terrace round it. The great temple first spoken of was divided by means of shifting partitions into four apartments; it had a verandah running all round, with a row of carved wooden pillars on its outer edge to support the roof, which extended considerably beyond the columns. The floor of the verandah was two feet from the ground; the roof sloping and covered with handsome tiles, those forming the eaves being ornamented with flowers and various figures in relief; there were also several out-houses, and a kitchen communicating with them and with the temple by covered passages. In one of the inner apartments, at the upper end, there was a small recess containing a green shrub, in a high narrow flower-pot, having a Chinese inscription on a tablet hanging above it on the wall. On another side of the same room, there hung the picture of a man rescuing a bird from the paws of a cat; the bird seemed to have been just taken from a cage, which was tumbling over, with two other birds fluttering about in the inside: it was merely a sketch, but was executed in a spirited manner. In one of the back apartments we found three gilt images, eighteen inches high, with a flower in a vase

before them. The roof of the temple within was ten feet high, and all the cornices, pillars, and other wooden parts of the building were neatly carved into flowers, and fantastic figures of various animals. The ground immediately round it was divided into a number of small beds, planted with different shrubs and flowers; and on a pedestal of artificial rock, in one of the walks close to it, we saw a clay vessel of an elegant form, full of water, with a wooden ladle swimming on the top. On a frame near one of the out-houses hung a large bell, three feet high, of an inelegant shape, resembling a long beehive; the sides were two inches thick, and richly ornamented, and its tone uncommonly fine.

It was determined to appropriate part of the large temple to the use of the sick and their attendants; the assistant surgeon of the Alceste taking one room, and the gunner, who was to have the whole inclosure under his charge, another. The small temple at the upper end, being a retired spot, was fixed upon for the Lyra's observatory; and the square building in the centre seemed well adapted for a magazine. At the gate a notice was hung up, both in English and Loo-choo, signifying that no person was to enter,

without a written pass from Captain Maxwell, or from one of the chiefs; but it was understood that every one might obtain a pass without the least difficulty.

7th and 8th of October.—These days have been occupied in carrying the foregoing arrangements into effect. Nothing could be more interesting than to observe the care which the natives took of the sick, whom they assisted all the way from the beach to the temple; a number of people attended to support such of them as had barely strength to walk; others carried their clothes, and in short, the utmost kindness was shown by all classes of the natives. When they were safely lodged, eggs, milk, fowls and vegetables, were brought to them; and whenever any of them were tempted by the beauty of the scenery to walk out, several of the natives were ready to accompany them.

In a little plot of ground in the temple garden, Mr. Phillips, purser of the Alceste, sowed mustard-seed, peas, and a variety of other seeds, the natives taking his directions for their culture. Our ignorance of botany prevented our making observations on this subject while at Loo-choo; but in order as far as possible to supply this

deficiency, we collected specimens of every plant at the place. These were preserved between sheets of brown paper, and given afterwards to Mr. Abel, the naturalist of the embassy, in order to be arranged; but they were subsequently lost, along with the whole of that gentleman's collection.

The powder was landed, and Mr. Holman, the gunner of the frigate, began the operation of drying it on hides spread in the sun round the magazine. The cows and other stock were also landed. One of the cows calved that night, to the surprise of every body, and the great joy of the natives, who took a particular fancy to the little bull born amongst them. Mr. Mayne, the master of the Alceste, took up his quarters in the temple, in order to be near his observatory, which was in the centre of the garden. The stores of all kinds were sent on shore from the Alceste, which produced an apparent confusion, and the chiefs, seeing so many valuable things lying about, began to fear that they would be taken away; at least, it was supposed that they had such an apprehension, for the wall of the temple was immediately fenced in by a sort of net-work of long bamboo poles, the ends of which

were fixed in the ground at the foot of the wall on the outside, and the tops made to cross one another four or five feet above the wall. This contrivance, instead of rendering the place more secure, only made it more accessible; but as our opinion was not asked, and as we had no apprehensions of theft, we allowed them to proceed in their own way.

Mrs. Loy, wife of the boatswain of the Alceste, was the only female in our squadron, and of course excited no small interest at this place. She was a perfectly well behaved person, and sufficiently neat in her dress, but without any great pretensions to good looks. The natives, who from the first paid her much attention, showed at all times their desire of granting her every indulgence. They even went so far as to say she might go into the city; but upon consulting her husband, who was apprehensive of some accident, she declined it. When this circumstance became known to us, we easily convinced the boatswain that no mischief could possibly arise from trusting his wife amongst such kind people; but Mrs. Loy could not be persuaded of this; and thus the only opportunity of seeing the town

which occurred during all our stay was lost from an absence of female curiosity * !

Two of the natives have been studying English with great assiduity, and with considerable success. One is called Maddera, the other Anya. They carry note books in imitation of Mr. Clifford, in which they record in their own characters every word they learn. They are both shrewd and observant young men, and are much among the strangers. From the respect occasionally paid to them, it is suspecteḍ that their rank is higher than they will admit it to be, and we suspect that their object in pretending to be people of ordinary rank is to obtain a more free intercourse with all classes on board the ships.

Maddera, by his great liveliness and singular propriety of manners, has made himself a great favourite; he adopts all our customs with a sort of intuitive readiness, sits down to table, uses a knife and fork, converses, and walks with us, in

* Mrs. Loy was on board the Alceste at the time of the shipwreck; and she bore all the hardship and anxiety consequent upon that disastrous event with the characteristic patience and fortitude of her sex. But the effort appears to have been too great for her strength, and she died shortly afterwards on the passage to England.

short, does every thing that we do, quite as matters of course, without any apparent effort or study. He is further recommended to us by the unreserved way in which he communicates every thing relating to his country; so that as he advances in the study of English, and we in the Loo-choo language, he may afford us the means of gaining much information. As an instance of his progress in English, it may be mentioned, that one day he came on board the Lyra, and said, "The Ta-yin speak me, 'you go ship, John come shore;'" by which he was readily understood to mean that Captain Maxwell had sent him on board the brig to order the interpreter on shore. This was about three weeks after our arrival.

Most of the natives have acquired a little English, so that Mr. Clifford has now no difficulty in finding people willing to instruct him, and to take pains in correcting his pronunciation. One of his teachers, called Yáckabee Oomeejeéro, will not permit him to write down a single word till he has acquired the exact Loo-choo sound: but he resembles the others in showing an invincible objection to giving any information about the women. When cross-questioned, he admits

that he is married, and gives without reserve the names of his sons: but when his wife or daughters are alluded to, he becomes instantly uneasy, and changes the subject as soon as he can. On Mr. Clifford's gravely telling him that he believed there were no women on the island, he was thrown off his guard, and answered hastily, that he had both a wife and daughter; but instantly checking himself, tried to turn the conversation to something else. On the picture of an English lady being shown to him, he commended it highly, saying, at the same time, "Doochoo innágo whoóco oorung" (Loo-choo women are not handsome.") This old gentleman is a better teacher than scholar; he calls the letter L "airoo;" veal, "bairoo;" flail, "frayroo;" in which instances of mispronunciation, we recognize a difficulty not uncommon among English children.

During our intercourse with these people, there did not occur one instance of theft. They were at all times permitted to come on board indiscriminately; and to go into the cabins, storerooms, or wherever else they thought fit, without being watched. At the temple on shore it was the same; there the Alceste's stores of every kind were lying about, as well as the carpenter's and

armourer's tools; and in the observatory, the instruments, books, and pencils were merely placed under cover and without any guard; yet there was not a single article taken away, though many hundreds of people were daily admitted, and allowed to examine whatever they pleased. This degree of honesty is a feature which distinguishes the people of Loo-choo from the inhabitants of the islands in the South Sea and of the Malay Archipelago; among whom even fear, as was ascertained by Captain Cook and other voyagers, is altogether insufficient to prevent theft. At Loo-choo the people are, indeed, considerably civilised; but they have few wants, and these being easily supplied, they appear to be perfectly contented.

In the first edition of this narrative, I remarked that, in this essential feature of their character, namely, honesty, the people of Loo-choo were distinguished from the Chinese, as well as from the inhabitants of most of the Eastern and South Sea islands: and I am indebted to the unknown though friendly critic of my work in the Quarterly Review, for making me sensible that by thus classing the Chinese, I was inadvertently

giving into the popular, but unworthy prejudice which decides upon the character of a whole nation by what is known of one profligate sea-port. My own experience, as the Reviewer observes, ought to have saved me from such an error; and I trust the reader will forgive my detaining him a moment, while I make the "amende honorable" to the Chinese, by relating the anecdote to which the Reviewer alludes.

Before proceeding to the Coast of Corea, the ships anchored at Oei-hai-oei, in the north of China, a port which we had reason to believe no European had ever before visited. Mr. Clifford and I landed one evening, and having rambled about the country for some time, came to a large village, the inhabitants of which flocked round us, and examined our clothes with every appearance of wonder and delight. Their attention, however, was most taken up with my watch, which having been given into the hands of a young man who stood near me, was passed from one to another till it was lost sight of; and in fact, we were so much amused by the variety and novelty of the scene, that the watch was not missed till we were stepping into the boat about

an hour afterwards. We of course believed that it was irretrievably gone; but being willing to make an effort to recover it, we returned to the village, which we now found quite still, the inhabitants having all retired to bed, excepting one party of the principal men, whom we found sitting in a circle in the moonlight, smoking their pipes. We accosted them on the subject of the watch, for which we happened to know the Chinese word, and explained to them by signs what had happened. They begged us to sit down and smoke a pipe, and not to be impatient, sending off at the same time one of their attendants into the village. We had not sat long before the servant returned, accompanied by the young man to whom the watch had been given. He had taken great care of it, and now returned it with evident satisfaction; explaining to us, by signs, that on our quitting the village we had taken another road to return by, by which means he had lost sight of us, and that he meant next day to have brought the watch on board.

My first impulse naturally was to reward his honesty by giving him all the money which I had with me, consisting of two or three dollars:

but the others, seeing my intention, jumped up, and taking the pieces of money out of my hands, insisted upon forcing them back again into my pockets. Imagining that they might be less scrupulous if something else were offered, I began cutting some gold fringe from an old epaulette, which had fallen from my shoulder during our walk; but they were even more shocked at this than with the offer of money. It next occurred to us that they might possibly be gratified by some written acknowledgment of their good conduct, and we had no sooner made signs for wishing to write, than they all rose and adjourned to the School House, which was close at hand. The schoolmaster, being one of the company, led the way, and having lighted a candle, brought us paper, ink, and a hair pencil. We now wrote an account of the loss and recovery of the watch, explaining each paragraph by means of signs; and when the writing was completed, we delivered it to them, with such expressions of gratitude as we could think of.

Next day the young man came on board, and we had the satisfaction of explaining to him, through the interpreter, how highly we

valued his honesty, and how desirous we were to prove our sincerity by some present. However, he steadily refused to accept any thing; observing, in reply to our solicitations, "that if, as we said, he was an honest man, his reward would be found in Heaven!"

CHAPTER III.

The Lyra sent to survey the Island of Loo-choo—Discovery of Port Melville—Description of that Harbour, and the Villages on its Banks—Lyra nearly shipwrecked on the Coral Reefs—Sail along the East Coast—Interview with Natives at the South Point—Discover a dangerous Coral Reef seven Miles from Land—Return to Napakiang—Behaviour of the Natives at a Seaman's Funeral—Religion, Temples, and sacred Inscriptions of Loo-choo—Maddera's Character and Conduct—Sociable Habits of the Natives—Amiable Treatment of their Children—Absence of Money—Dinner given to the Chiefs of the Island by Captain Maxwell—Maddera's Behaviour on this Occasion—Two Women seen—A Lady of Rank visits the Boatswain's Wife—Captain Maxwell fractures his Finger—Concern of the Natives—Loo-choo Surgeon—Visit of the Prince—Discussion about the King of Loo-choo's Letter—Maddera appears in a new Character—Polygamy not allowed—Treatment of the Women—Music—Feast given by the Prince—List of Supplies given to the Ships—Behaviour of the Prince on taking Leave—Population—Preparations for Departure—Maddera's Distress—Last Interview with the Chiefs—Parting Scene.

As soon as Napakiang anchorage was surveyed, and a perfectly good understanding happily established between the natives and ourselves, it was determined by Captain Maxwell that a survey of the whole island should be made; and the Lyra was accordingly ordered upon this service.

We were absent about a week, during which period a general chart of the island was constructed; and although it much be obvious to every one acquainted with the subject, that, in so short a time, a very exact survey of the coast of an island nearly sixty miles long could not have been made; yet, as the weather was in general fine, and other circumstances favourable, it will be found sufficiently correct for most practical purposes. As the chart and the accompanying nautical and hydrographical details are given in the Appendix to the first edition, I propose at present to relate such particulars only of the cruise as seem likely to interest the general reader.

9th of October.—At daybreak we got under weigh and stood to sea through a passage discovered by the boats; it was so extremely narrow, that the least deviation from the direct course brought us close to the rocks. We were regulated in steering by two marks on the land, lying in the same straight line with the centre of the passage; these it is necessary to keep always together. Not being aware, however, that such nicety was required while sailing out, the marks were allowed to separate, by which error we found ourselves in a minute or two within three yards of

a coral reef, the ragged tops of which were distinctly visible two or three feet below the surface, whilst, at the same moment, the leadsman on the opposite side of the ship sounded in nine fathoms! This early proof of the danger of navigating amongst coral, by teaching us the necessity of extreme caution, was of great importance to us in our future operations.

As the coast lying between Napakiang and the Sugar Loaf had already been examined, we proceeded at once round that island, which, from its having the same aspect on every bearing, and being quite different in shape from any land in this quarter, is an excellent land-mark for navigators. The natives call it Eegooshcoond, or castle*. The appropriate English name of Sugar Loaf was given, I believe, by Captain Broughton.

Having rounded this peak and stood in for the north-west side of the Great Loo-choo, where there was a deep bight or bay, a small island was observed close in shore, behind which it was thought there might be shelter for ships: the coast, however, being unknown to us, it was not thought

* We first discovered the meaning of this word by hearing one of the natives apply it to the castle on the chess-board: he used the same term when drawings of towers and castles were shown to him.

safe to carry the brig very close in, until a boat had been despatched with an officer to reconnoitre: he returned at eight o'clock to say that there was a harbour in the main land, the entrance to which lay on the inside of the small island mentioned before; but that the passages were narrow and winding, and that a more careful examination was necessary before the brig could venture in.

11th of October.—In the morning we again stood towards the shore, using the precaution of sending a boat ahead to sound the way: when we had nearly reached the entrance we anchored, and proceeded in three boats to examine the harbour discovered last night. As it was near noon when we passed the small island, we landed and observed the meridian altitude of the sun; after which we entered the harbour in the main island, by an intricate passage of about a quarter of a mile in length, and at one place not two hundred yards wide. Here we found ourselves in a circular bason upwards of half a mile across, with deep water, and completely sheltered from all winds. On its western shore we saw a large and beautiful village almost hid amongst trees, with a high wooded range behind it stretching to the south. The eastern shore was low, and laid out in salt

fields, with a few huts here and there. At first sight this bason, or harbour, did not appear to have any outlet except by the one we had examined; but on rowing to its upper or southern side, we were surprised to find that it was joined by a narrow channel to another harbour still larger, and if possible more beautiful than the first; for here the land was high on both sides, and richly wooded from top to bottom. Proceeding onwards through this bason, which had all the appearance of an inland lake, we came to another outlet, not above a hundred yards wide, formed by cliffs rising abruptly out of the water to the height of a hundred feet. Both sides being covered with trees, which almost met overhead, the space below was rendered cool and pleasant, and the water, thus sheltered from every wind, was as smooth as glass: the woods were filled with singing birds, and the foliage being in the highest style of oriental luxuriance, it was not possible to imagine a more beautiful scene than this was. We rowed along for some time by various windings through this fairy harbour, in total uncertainty of what was to come next, and every moment presenting new beauties, till at last, after advancing about three miles, we found our-

selves in an extensive lake, several miles in length, and studded with numerous small islands.

The depth of water in the lake varied from four to six fathoms; but in the narrow neck which connects it with the sea the depth is from ten to twenty fathoms, being deepest at the narrowest parts. Ships might ride in any part of this extraordinary harbour, in perfect safety during the most violent tempests: the shores, too, are so varied, that every purpose of re-equipment might be served. At some places natural wharfs are formed by the rocks, with eight and ten fathoms water close to them. Ships might lie alongside these places, or might heave down by them: there are also shallow spots on which ships might be careened. Many of the cliffs are hollowed into caves, which would answer for storehouses; and in the numerous lawns on both sides encampments might be formed for any number of people.

We rowed directly across, and landed at the southern side, at the foot of a wooded range of hills, which forms the southern boundary of the lake. As no road was observed, it was resolved to go directly up the hill, and, in about an hour, after a good deal of scrambling amongst the bushes and long grass, we gained the top, where

we found a neat pathway with a ditch on each side, and a hedge growing on the top of the mound, formed of the earth from the ditch; so as to resemble, not a little, an English lane. Without knowing where this might take us to, we followed it, in hopes of meeting some of the people, but in this we were disappointed.

The trees on this range of hills were low, and of no great beauty; the fir or pine being the most common, but we did not know the names of the rest. The view from this elevation was very satisfactory, as it enabled us to check our rough eye draught of the harbour and coast. After walking about a mile, our path took an abrupt turn down the brow of the hill, and appeared to lead to a large village at some distance. The road down the hill was so steep that it was just possible to stand upon it, being inclined, as was conjectured on the spot, at an angle of 45°. At the bottom of the hill there was a little cottage, consisting of two compartments, made of wattled rattans, connected by a light open bamboo roof, so covered with a large leaved creeper as to afford a complete shelter from the sun. The cottage, which was thatched, was enveloped in creepers, encircled by the usual rattan fence at two or three

yards distance. One of the wings was occupied by goats; the other, which was dark, seemed to belong to the people, who had deserted it on our approach. There being only a small hole in the wall to admit light and air, and to allow the smoke to escape, every thing inside was black and dirty.

We saw no military weapons of any kind at Loo-choo, and the natives always declared that they had none; their behaviour on seeing a musket fired certainly implied an ignorance of fire-arms. In the cottage above described we saw two spears which had the appearance of warlike weapons, but we had every reason to believe that they were used for the sole purpose of striking fish, having seen others not very dissimilar actually made use of in this way. They looked at our swords and cutlasses, and at some Malay creeses and spears, which we had got at Java, with equal surprise, being apparently ignorant of them all. The chiefs carried little case knives in the folds of their robes, or in the girdle, and the lower orders wore a larger knife; but these were always for common use, and were certainly not worn for defence or ornament. They always denied having

any knowledge of war, either by experience or by tradition.

On coming to our boats, we found them surrounded by a party of the natives, smaller in stature than our friends at Napakiang, and showing less curiosity: probably, however, their surprise at our sudden appearance had not subsided sufficiently to allow of their indulging curiosity by minute inquiries. A large party of them watched us attentively while a musket was loading: when it was pointed over their heads in the air, they seemed aware that something was going to happen, but from their not shrinking or removing out of the way, it seemed they knew not well what. When it was fired, the whole party fell on their faces, as if they had been shot, but rose instantly again, and looking to the right and left at one another, indulged in a timorous laugh. A cartridge was given to one man, with which he was nearly blowing himself up by placing it on his lighted pipe. The officer of the boat informed us that a gentleman had come to him and offered his horse to ride; he had dismounted for that purpose, but the horse was frightened, and would not suffer the officer to mount. We saw this

person riding along when we were at the top of the hill: he called out to us repeatedly, probably to offer his horse; but we thought he wished to dissuade us from walking over the hill, and accordingly we had taken no notice of him.

In the mean time Mr. Clifford, who had been unwell, and felt unequal to the labour of climbing the hill, proceeded in one of the boats towards a large village on the eastern side of the lake. He was met by a number of the inhabitants, whose dress and appearance were inferior to what we had been accustomed to see at Napakiang: on his asking them in Loo-choo for some water, they gave it cheerfully; but they showed little curiosity, and the party which followed wherever he went, seemed to have no other object than to prevent disturbance. They made no objection to his going into the village, where he saw in one inclosure a complete farm-yard. The principal house was closed, but to the offices there was free access. In the stable were two handsome bay ponies; there was also a well-stocked pigsty, and a poultry-house. In another quarter stood a mill for husking corn, consisting of a grooved solid cylinder of wood, fitted neatly into a hollow cylinder, the sides of which were also grooved;

near this lay a hand flour-mill and several baskets of cotton. In another part of the court was a granary, erected on posts about six feet above the ground, having billets of fire-wood piled below it. At another place, under a tree in the village, he saw a blacksmith's anvil fixed in a block; the forge was of masonry, having an air hole, but the bellows was wanting.

In the centre of the village stood a building like a temple, surrounded by a stone wall. It was filled with elegant vases of different shapes and sizes, closed up and ranged in rows on the floor; the verandah encircling the building being also covered with vases. According to the account of the natives, the remains of the dead are deposited in these jars. Round the building, bamboo poles were placed so as to lean against the thatched roof, having notches cut in them, to which bundles of flowers were hung, some fresh, others decayed, apparently funereal offerings; but their exact import Mr. Clifford was not able to learn. The elegant shape of the vases, and the tasteful way in which they were arranged, with the flowers hanging all round, gave to this cemetery an air of cheerfulness, which we are in the habit of thinking unsuitable to a depository of the dead.

This village, which is at the head of a bay, is sheltered from the north wind by a row of trees between it and the beach; from behind it is sheltered by a range of hills. A broad road runs between it and the water; trees are planted among the houses, so as nearly to conceal them. In the middle of the village near the cemetery, in an open square, there is a cluster of granaries like the one described above; the walls are made of wattled rattan, and slope outwards at top.

Mr. Clifford tried in vain to see the Chief of the village; but either there was no such person, or he was out of the way: the inhabitants pointed out a man on horseback as a Chief, who passed on to another village: this person was probably the same who had offered his horse to Mr. Hall, the officer of the boat. Mr. Clifford went to the top of the range behind the village, and afterwards into the valley on the other side, which he found highly cultivated.

From the heights we could see that the large space which was at first considered a lake communicated with the sea to the north-eastward, as well as by the narrow passage through which we had come.

On returning by the narrow harbour by which

we had entered, we called at some of the small villages on the eastern side. At one of these, the inhabitants, headed by a man who appeared to be superior to the rest, came towards the boat, but stopped for some minutes at the distance of fifty yards; after which, appearing to have gained confidence, they came on, with the old man in front, carrying a green bough in his hand. He would not come close, however, till invited by Mr. Clifford in Loo-choo to look at the boat; he then advanced and presented his bough; in return for which we broke a branch from a tree, and gave it to him with the same formality he had used towards us. Soon after this exchange was made, they left us, and went to examine the boat—to fishermen, as these people were, always an object of great interest.

On our entering the village we were met by a man who appeared to be the principal person of the place; he was very obliging, showed us through the village, and took us over his garden, where he had some sugar-cane growing: upon our admiring his crop, he ordered one of the finest canes to be taken up by the roots and presented to us; in return, we gave him a few buttons off our jackets, with which he was quite pleased. On

its beginning to rain while we were in the garden, he invited us into his house, which, from the walls being of wattled cane, looked more like a large basket than a dwelling-house. Rude pictures and carved woodwork figures were hanging on the walls, along with some inscriptions in Chinese characters.

On returning to the lower harbour of all, we rowed to the large village before spoken of, which was found to be by far the most perfect of any we had seen on the island. The streets were regular and clean; each house having a neat cane wall, as well as a screen before the door; and plantain and other trees growing so thickly on the inner side of the fence, as to shade the house completely. Near the beach were several large houses, in which a number of people were seated writing: on going up to them they gave us tea and cakes, and afterwards allowed us to go over the village without restraint; they were curious to know whether the brig was coming into the harbour or not, and if so, how many days we meant to stay; they expressed neither pleasure nor regret when we said that we were not coming in. In front of the village, and parallel with the beach, there was a splendid avenue, thirty feet wide, and a quarter

of a mile long, formed by two rows of large trees, whose branches joined overhead, and effectually excluded the rays of the sun; here and there were placed wooden benches, and at some places stone seats were fixed near the trees. This village is called Oonting, and is certainly that to which the chiefs alluded at an early stage of our acquaintance.

A range of hills of a semicircular form embraces the village, and limits its extent: at most places it is steep, but at the point where the north end joins the harbour there is an overhanging cliff about eighty feet high, the upper part of which projects considerably beyond the base. At eight or ten yards from the ground on this inclined face, a long horizontal gallery has been hewn out of the solid rock: it communicates with a number of small square excavations still deeper in the rock, for the reception of the vases containing the bones of the dead.

The trees and creepers on the edge of this precipice hung down so low as to meet the tops of those which grew on the plain; thus a screen of leaves and branches was formed which threw the gallery into deep shade: every thing at this beautiful spot being perfectly still and silent, the scene was

exceedingly solemn and imposing. It took us, indeed, somewhat by surprise, for nothing in its external appearance had indicated the purpose to which the place was appropriated; and on passing along we happened to discover an opening amongst the trees and brushwood, and resolving to see what it led to, we entered by a narrow path winding through the grove. The liveliness of the scenery without, and the various amusements of the day, had put us all into high spirits; but the unexpected and sacred gloom of the scene in which we suddenly found ourselves had an instantaneous effect in repressing the mirth of the whole party, who marched out again like so many people from the cave of Trophonius!

This excellent harbour, which we had discovered, we named Port Melville, in honour of Lord Viscount Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty.

As it was quite dark when we reached the brig, and a heavy swell was rolling in, no time was lost in getting under weigh; but before we could succeed in running well off the reefs, the wind suddenly changed, and the weather, which before had been fine, became so dark and squally, that we

almost lost sight of the shore. Our situation was now very critical, for we had just sufficient knowledge of the coast to be sensible how extremely dangerous it was; and the wind, which blew directly on the shore, came in such violent gusts, that there was great reason to apprehend the loss of our topmasts, in which case we must infallibly have perished: to reef the topsails was out of the question, as the delay which this operation, however expertly executed, must have caused, would have proved fatal. While things were in this state, it became necessary to tack, in order to avoid running on the reef; but owing to the heavy and irregular swell, this evolution failed, and before the sails could be properly trimmed again, the brig had gone stern foremost almost to the verge of the reef, on which the sea was breaking to a vast height. We were fortunately more successful on the next occasion, otherwise nothing could have saved us. But we gained so little at each tack, that our course backwards and forwards lay parallel with the line of breakers, at the distance of a quarter of a mile under our lee, for upwards of an hour, when the wind shifted a little, and enabled us to stretch off, clear of all danger.

During the 12th of October it blew so hard that we were under the necessity of keeping out at sea, clear of the shore.

On the 13th the weather became moderate, and we stood in shore, to determine the position of five islands lying to the northward of Port Melville.

14th of October.—During this day the whole of the east side of the island of Loo-choo was explored. The north and north-east sides were high, and appeared destitute of cultivation; nearly in the middle, on this side, we discovered a deep indenture on the coast, and the wind being such as to admit of sailing both in and out, we ran in under low sail, and all the usual precautions; notwithstanding which we very nearly ran on the reefs, for the water shoaled suddenly from twenty-four to eight fathoms; and although the brig was instantly tacked, the soundings as she came round were only five fathoms, and to leeward of us, at the distance of only fifty yards, the ragged tops of a rock just level with the surface were discovered. In exploring such places in a ship, there ought to be at least two boats ahead. The coast from this bay to the south point of the island was found every where fringed with coral reefs, extending to the distance of ten and fifteen miles

from the shore, and rendering this part of the island in the highest degree dangerous. The extreme south point being comparatively clear of coral, we anchored off it at sunset, proposing to land with our instruments next day, to determine its true position. We found the iron cables of great use when obliged to anchor amongst coral reefs, as the hempen ones were liable to be cut in a very short time.

15th of October.—It blew hard last night, but in the forenoon it moderated sufficiently to allow of our landing. We ascertained the latitude of the extreme south point to be 26° 4¾′ N. and the longitude 127° 35½′ E.

We had scarcely landed, before the natives began to assemble in groups on the top of the cliffs, and in a short time they came down to us, most of them carrying long poles in their hands; we were sufficiently aware of their inoffensive character to have no apprehension of their intentions, otherwise their appearance would have been somewhat formidable. There was no person of rank among them; but they were more communicative, and full of curiosity, than the inhabitants on the shores of Port Melville; a difference which may have arisen from these people having already heard some-

thing of us by report from Napakiang, not above ten miles distant. Most of these people had fish spears tatooed on their arms in the form of a trident, with rude barbs: when these were drawn on the right arm it was called by them "Oódee-maw;" when on the left, "Toóga." This is the only example we saw at Loo-choo of such a practice. Our curiosity was excited by the appearance of these spears, especially as we had never seen any warlike weapon on the island; but the people invariably called them "Eéo stitchee" (fish spears). Several of the tallest of these people were measured, but none were above five feet six inches, yet they were in general strong limbed, and well proportioned. One of them wore a ring on his finger, which is the only instance we met with of any such ornament being worn at Loo-choo. What we distinguish by the name of the ring-finger is also called in the Loo-choo language, "Eébee gánnee," finger of the ring; and it seems a fair inference from this, that amongst some part of the community rings are habitually worn, probably by the women; otherwise how could this finger have acquired a distinctive appellation?

The coast here is formed of cliffs, about seventy

or eighty feet high, with numerous caverns hollowed out by the waves. The pools of water left by the tide being full of beautiful fish of a great variety of colours.

16th of October.—In the morning we weighed and stood to the westward, among the group of islands called Amakírrima by the natives. At one of these there seemed at first sight to be a harbour for ships; but on sending the boats to explore, it proved only safe for small vessels, being filled in every part with coral. On our way across from the south point of the great island to the Amakírrimas, we passed near a coral reef exactly circular, half a mile in diameter, and just level with the water's edge at half ebb; in fine weather the sea will not break upon any part of it, so as to give warning of its vicinity. As it is upwards of seven miles from any land, and lies directly in the passage towards Napakiang, it is exceedingly dangerous, and ought not to be approached in the night by a stranger.

The more we gained experience in navigating amongst coral reefs, the more sensible we became of the necessity of extreme precaution; and we now sailed, with constant anxiety, over seas which we had traversed some weeks before without the

least apprehension. We now discovered, for instance, that when we first came to Loo-choo, we must have drifted during the night within a very short distance of several frightful reefs, but which we never saw!

As we stood towards the anchorage of Napakiang, we could see the coral from the masthead so distinctly, as to be able to trace the forms of all the reefs as we passed amongst them. This can rarely be done, however, even when the water is clear, because an unusual degree of smoothness of surface is requisite to make the rocks visible; and the sun must also shine upon the water at a particular angle. A stranger cannot therefore calculate upon having the danger pointed out in this way; but when such circumstances do occur, they may be taken advantage of to check the surveys of reefs made in boats.

We found things at Napakiang nearly as we had left them; the best understanding seemed to exist between our people and the natives, every body being allowed to walk about, and do as he pleased. The frigate had been bountifully supplied with stock and vegetables; and the sick on shore were rapidly recovering under the kind care of the natives, who took a peculiar pleasure in

supplying all their wants, and in studying to provide those numberless little comforts which contribute so much to the recovery of invalids.

A young man belonging to the Alceste had died during our absence. When the chiefs were informed of this circumstance, they requested permission to make the grave, begging Captain Maxwell to point out a place for this purpose; and he, with his wonted good taste, gratified them exceedingly by saying that no situation could be more appropriate than that under the grove of trees near the temple, as it was a spot already rendered sacred by many Loo-choo tombs. The grave was accordingly dug by the natives, and next day the body was carried to it with all the formalities usual on such occasions; Captain Maxwell, according to military and naval custom, walking last, with the officers and crew before him. The ready politeness of the natives was never more strikingly displayed than upon this occasion; for perceiving that those who were of the highest rank walked in the rear, they considered that their station must of course be in the front; they accordingly placed themselves at the head of the procession, and preserved throughout the ceremony the most profound silence. They

were all dressed in pure white, which is their mourning.

On the next day the natives requested leave to raise a tomb over the grave of our departed countryman; this offer was of course gratefully accepted, and when the building was completed, they performed their own funeral rites over it, by sacrificing a large hog, and burning a quantity of spirits. On this occasion Jeeroo officiated, and when he had done all that was requisite, he carried the hog as a present to the sick in the hospital.

The chiefs, anxious to leave nothing undone, gave directions for a small square stone to be smoothed, and prepared for an epitaph, which they begged might be traced upon the stone by Mr. Taylor, the clergyman of the Alceste, with whose performance of the funeral service they had been much struck. The epitaph, after setting forth the name and age of the deceased, stated briefly, that he and his companions in his Britannic majesty's ships Alceste and Lyra, had been kindly treated by the inhabitants of this island. When the purport of the writing was interpreted to the chiefs, they appeared very much gratified with this acknowledgment of

their attentions, and gave immediate directions for the letters being deeply carved on the stone.

The religion of Loo-choo, as far as we can learn, is similar to the Chinese, namely, that of Fo: it is said to have been introduced by the bodzes one thousand years ago*. We found much difficulty in discovering any thing precise on this subject from the natives; but from all that we could collect, religion does not appear to be made a matter of general instruction as in Europe, being left, as in China, almost entirely to the priests. The careless manner in which the subject was at all times treated by the natives, and the ignorance which they professed of the forms and ceremonies used in the temples, sufficiently warrant this inference. The bodzes are certainly but little respected or esteemed in society; they are prevented from marrying, and are not allowed to eat meat: few people associate with them, and sometimes even the children, so well-bred upon all other occasions, are tempted to turn them into ridicule. On the occasion of the Loo-choo funeral rites over the grave of our seaman, the bodzes stood behind, and were not

* See Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses, vol. 23.

PRIEST or BODZE and a CHIEF of LOO CHOO.

called upon nor permitted to officiate, the ceremony being entirely performed by Jeeroo.

In the large temple we saw three gilt idols, and various pictures; but with the exception of the funeral rites just alluded to, we never met with any thing in the least degree resembling a religious ceremony. The bodzes kept the temple in order, and took care of the walks and hedges; these appearing to be their only employments. It is more than probable, however, that our occupation of the temple may have caused a temporary cessation of their religious observances, or else that they were performed elsewhere.

The dead are placed in large tombs or cemeteries, which are mostly of the Chinese form, viz. that of a horse-shoe, formed of stones and mortar, and covered over with a coat of plaster; which is always kept nicely white-washed and swept clean: the size of these tombs varies from twenty to thirty feet in length, by twelve to fourteen broad. The coffin, when closed, is placed in the vault under the tomb, and is not touched for six or seven years, by which time the flesh is found to have wasted away; the bones are then collected, and put into jars ranged in rows on the inside of the vault. Burning the

dead is never practised, they informed us, under any circumstances. In the course of time, when these vaults become crowded, the vases are removed to houses appropriated to their reception above ground: such no doubt must have been the building described by Mr. Clifford in the village near Port Melville. The lower orders, who cannot afford such expensive tombs, deposit the remains of their friends in hollow places in the rocks, which with a little trouble are rendered secure vaults. In the cliffs behind the village of Oonting, however, the galleries cut for the reception of the vases are too extensive to have had this origin; but must have been the work of men possessed of wealth or authority.

From Mr. Clifford's notes I have extracted the following particulars respecting some curious inscriptions.

"A number of carved stones, called by the natives Kawroo, were found at many places, particularly in the groves on the hill. The Kawroo is two feet long, by one wide, and one high; it is excavated a little on the upper part, on which an offering of rice is placed. On the sides of this stone are carved a variety of characters, denoting the rank of the person who

makes the offering, as well as the object of his petition, together with the date.

" Two of these inscriptions, copied at the time, have since been translated by a gentleman acquainted with the Chinese characters. The first gives an account of a man about to sail for China, in the reign of Kien Lung, the late monarch of that country: this person implores divine aid in protecting him during his voyage. The other is dated in the twenty-first year of the reign of Kia-King, the present emperor of China, answering to the year 1816, in which we visited Loo-choo. This is an invocation to the deity for assistance in a literary undertaking.

" Two narrow strips of paper, with characters inscribed on them, which, by consent of the natives, we took down from a pillar in the temple, and which have since been translated, prove to be invocations, one to the supreme Deity, and the other to the evil spirit. The first is on a slip of paper, two feet long, by two inches wide, and contains a supplication for pardon. The latter invocation begins by seven rows of the Chinese character symbolical of the evil spirit. In the upper line there are seven of these characters, and in the last line only one, so that a triangular mass of

letters or characters is formed of twenty-eight characters. The invocation itself follows in a narrow perpendicular line underneath; the whole inscription resembling in form a kite with a long tail attached to it."

18th of October.—Our friends expressed much pleasure on meeting us again, particularly Jeeroo, who always took great interest in our concerns: he carried us up to the sailor's tomb, where we were joined by Ookooma, Jeema, and some of the others, who unaffectedly expressed their sorrow for this man's untimely fate. I found my people who had been landed previous to our sailing on the survey, much recovered, and very grateful for the kindness of the natives. Milk, eggs, meat and vegetables had been brought to them every day; and whenever they felt disposed to walk they were accompanied by one or two of the natives, who took their arms on coming to rough ground, and often helped them up the steep side of the hill behind the hospital, to a pleasant grassy spot on the summit, where having lighted pipes for them, they remained till the invalids wished to return. In short, I suppose sailors were never so caressed before; and it was very pleasing to observe how much our hardy seamen were softened by such gentle intercourse:

for it was not to the sick alone that the influence of this unaffected suavity of manners extended. The whole crews of both ships participated in the same kindly sentiment, and seemed called upon, as a matter of course, to lay aside for a time almost all their habitual roughness of manner, and without any interference on the part of the officers, to treat the natives at all times with the greatest consideration and kindness.

The chiefs were anxious to know what we had been doing during the week in which we had been absent: but from an apprehension that they might be displeased at our having instituted a regular examination of the whole island, we simply said that amongst other things we had been looking at the harbour they had spoken of: they immediately mentioned the village of Oonting, and asked how we liked it. But no doubt they guessed that we had been round the island, from seeing that we returned by the south, though we had sailed to the north: they said repeatedly, that the island was very small, appearing to be anxious to depreciate it; our reply of course was, that it was very large and very beautiful.

Maddera had made great improvement in En-

glish during our absence, and his character was altogether more developed. He was now quite at his ease in our company, and seemed to take the most extraordinary interest in every thing belonging to us; but his ardent desire to inform himself on all subjects sometimes distressed him a good deal; observing the facility with which we did some things, his enterprising mind immediately suggested to him the possibility of his imitating us; but when he was made sensible of the number of steps by which alone the knowledge he aspired to was to be attained, his despair was strongly marked. One day, on shore, he saw me with a book in my hand: he begged me to sit down under a tree, and read: Jeeroo was the only chief present, but there were several of the peasants in attendance upon him; they all lay down on the grass, and listened with deep attention and interest, especially Maddera, whose anxiety no doubt was to read in the same manner himself. From the earnest way in which he inquired into every subject, we were sometimes disposed to suspect that he must have been directed by the government to inform himself on these topics; and certainly a fitter person could

not have been selected; for he adapted himself so readily to all ranks, that he soon became a universal favourite.

Jeeroo was valued on other accounts; he was uniformly good humoured and obliging, and not without a considerable share of curiosity; but he was by no means so clever, and had none of the ardent enthusiasm so remarkable in Maddera. We all thought kindly of Jeeroo, and shook him cordially by the hand whenever we met him; but Maddera was admired and respected, as well as esteemed, and though he could be as jocular if he pleased, or more so, than Jeeroo, he was of a far higher stamp of character, and his society was accordingly much more sought after.

Maddera was about twenty-eight years of age, of a slender figure, but very active; his upper teeth projected in front over the lower ones, giving his face a remarkable, but not a disagreeable, expression. He was always cheerful, and often lively and playful; but his good sense prevented his ever going beyond the line of strictest propriety. When required by circumstances to be grave, no one was so immoveably serious as Maddera; but when mirth ruled the hour, he became the gayest of the gay! Such indeed was the nicety

of his taste on all occasions, that he not only caught the outward tone of his company, but really appeared, and probably did think and feel as they did. His enterprising spirit and uncommon versatility of talent led him to engage in a number of pursuits at once; his success, however, was the most remarkable in his acquisition of English. About a month after our arrival, he was asked what had become of his companion Anya; he replied, "Anya, him mother sick, he go him mother house;" and when asked if he would return, he said, "Two, three day time, him mother no sick, he come ship." With all these endowments and attainments he was unaffectedly modest, and never seemed aware of his being superior to the rest of his countrymen. We were a long time in doubt what his real rank was; for at first he kept himself so much in the back ground, that he was long well known to the midshipmen, before the officers were at all acquainted with him: he gradually came forward, and though he always wore the dress of the ordinary respectable natives, his manners showed evidently that he belonged to a higher rank; but he never associated with the chiefs, and disclaimed having any pretensions to an equality with them. Notwithstanding all this

humility, there were occasional circumstances, which, by showing his actual authority, almost betrayed his secret. One morning a difficulty arose about some supplies which the chiefs had engaged to procure, but which they had neglected to send: as soon as Maddera was told of the circumstance, he went to Captain Maxwell, and with the air of a man of authority, undertook, and indeed did arrange it to his satisfaction; at the same time he begged that if any difficulty occurred in future, he might be applied to. Whatever be Maddera's rank in his own society, it is at least highly curious to discover in a country so circumstanced, the same politeness, self-denial, gracefulness of behaviour, and simplicity of character, which the experience of civilized nations has pointed out as constituting the most pleasing as well as the most advantageous forms by which society can be held together.

The great interest which Maddera took in the English strangers, and the curiosity he always expressed to hear about our customs, suggested the idea of taking him with us to England, where he would have been a most interesting specimen of a people so little known; and we thought also that he might have carried back with him to Loo-

choo knowledge that might prove of the greatest use to his countrymen. When this project was proposed to him, he paused for some minutes, and then, shaking his head, said, "I go Injeree,—father, mother, childs, wife, house, all cry! not go; no, no, all cry!"

In our absence a number of watch-houses had been erected on the heights round the anchorage, made of cane thatched over, in which three or four of the natives could remain, day and night, in order to be ready to accompany any person who happened to land. They had also erected a long shed, with a floor of split bamboo, on the top of the hill above the usual landing-place, where the chiefs generally assembled in the morning, and invited every one who passed to drink tea and smoke pipes, which proved very convenient after our walks, or when the boats happened not to be ready to take us on board. Each of the chiefs was always attended by a boy, generally his son, whose business it was to carry a little square box, in which there were contrived several small drawers, divided into little compartments, filled with rice, sliced eggs, small squares of smoked pork, cakes, and fish; and in one corner a small metal pot of sackee, besides cups and

chopsticks. By having this supply always with them, they could take their meals when and where they pleased. They frequently invited us to dine with them, and if we agreed to the proposal, they generally asked any of the other chiefs whom they chanced to meet to be of the party, and to join dinners. The place selected for these pic nics was commonly in some cool spot, under the trees, where a mat was soon spread on the grass, and every thing laid out in great order, the party lying round in a circle, and seldom breaking up till the sackee pot was emptied.

It was impossible not to be struck with the amiable way in which these good people treated their children. Whenever any thing new was shown to them, they were not happy till they had brought their children to participate in their satisfaction. The parents and children, in short, were constant companions; and the familiarity by which this freedom of intercourse was attended, being of that stamp which breeds respect, and not contempt, the paternal authority remained in full force. Yet it was truly interesting to observe the sagacity with which this influence was restrained when its exercise would have been hurtful. One day, while we were drinking tea and smoking

pipes with the chiefs, on the top of the hill, a boy began to exhibit feats of tumbling amongst his companions on the green before us; in a short time all eyes were turned towards him, upon which he modestly desisted, appearing to lose confidence when he knew he was watched. We offered him buttons and various things, to induce him to repeat his exhibition; but in vain: we then asked Jeema to interfere; he did so, and told the youngster to go on; but the boy still kept his seat on the grass, and Jeema became angry, or rather pretended to be so, yet the tumbler sat resolutely still. "Well," said Jeema to us, "what is to be done? It was for his own amusement that he began, and probably for his amusement he will do so again." The boy, accordingly, when left alone, in a short time resumed his tumbling. I mention this to show Jeema's good sense in not forcing the boy to do that as a task, which he had begun as an amusement, and which he had discernment enough to know would be unpleasant for us to witness in any other way. By this mild treatment of their children, mutual cordiality and freedom of intercourse are encouraged amongst themselves; and it was probably owing to this mode of education that the children became so

readily familiar with us. One day while I was employed sketching the village and trees near the bridge, a fine little fellow came near me, and without saying any thing, endeavoured to attract my notice by performing various gambols before me. Being desirous of seeing how long he would go on, I took no notice of him for some time, but at length looked up and smiled; upon which the boy cried out in perfectly good English, "How do you do? Very well, I thank you;" and ran off, quite delighted at having displayed his proficiency in English.

An artist of the island brought a drawing of the Alceste on board to-day for Captain Maxwell: it measured about two feet long, by one and a half broad, and was altogether a most extraordinary production of art, in which all perspective and proportion were curiously set aside. The captain and officers were introduced in full uniform, as well as a number of the sailors sprawling about on the rigging and masts. With all its extravagance, however, it had considerable merit; for there was nothing slovenly about it, and it had enough of truth in it to show that it was sketched on the spot, and by a person not without genius.

A dispute arose to-day between John the in-

terpreter and the chiefs, who it seemed had positively promised to furnish a horse for Captain Maxwell to ride upon; as they did not keep their word, John declared that he would have nothing to say to people who so notoriously disregarded truth. They have again promised, however, that a horse will be got ready, and in the mean time, a fresh stock of beef and vegetables has been sent to both ships, which has pacified John a little. We have had much occasion to lament not having been accompanied by one of the gentlemen of the factory acquainted with the Chinese language, for although to have John is much better than to be without any interpreter, it is too probable that he is not very delicate in his mode of interpreting our requests, and may often make use of expressions and arguments unsuited to our character, and contrary to our wishes and instructions.

They appear to have no money, and from all we could see or hear, they are even ignorant of its use. Those, however, who have visited China cannot be so ill informed, and yet none of them showed any desire to possess our Spanish dollars, or any of the gold coins that we had. Though we were incessantly trying to make out from Maddera and the other chiefs what their medium

of exchange was, we could never learn any thing distinct upon the subject, nor, as far as we had the means of discovering, were they ever fully sensible of the nature of our questions about money; a difficulty, it may be observed, which we should naturally expect to meet with among people whose only mode of purchase was by barter. The only circumstance which came to our knowledge bearing at all upon this question occurred at the time when the garden was under preparation for the reception of the Alceste's stores. It was then remarked that each of the labourers employed had a little piece of paper stuck in his hair, with a single character written upon it; this naturally excited our curiosity, but the inquiries we were enabled to make at that early stage of our knowledge of the language, led to nothing conclusive. Afterwards, when our means in this respect were more ample, we could not recal the circumstance to the recollection of the chiefs. As these papers were called by the people wearing them "hoonátee," and as "hoónee" means ship, Mr. Clifford has conjectured that they may have been written passes to enable them to enter the gate on the ship's business, or that

they were acknowledgments for the labour done while employed in our store-rooms.

19th of October.—In the morning, before breakfast, Captain Maxwell was informed by one of the chiefs, that a horse was ready for him on the beach; he landed accordingly, and found a little pony saddled, and two of the chiefs mounted to bear him company. They objected to his riding in the country, where the roads, they pretended, were uneven; so that for the present his ride was confined to the beach. As the saddle was made of wood, and so uneven as to be very unpleasant, it was proposed to have one made of a blanket and mats in future. To the stirrup there was tied a box, large enough to receive the whole foot, not very unlike what is used in Spain.

A grand entertainment was given to-day by Captain Maxwell to the chiefs Ookooma, Shayoon, Issacha Sandoo, Jeema, and Issacha Hackeeboocoo; Jeeroo was also invited to it, but did not attend; being the junior, he was probably left in charge of the beach and store-rooms. Maddera also made one of the party, though not originally included in the invitation. As he had never laid any claim to an equality in rank with

the chiefs, it was not thought right to invite him along with them: but Maddera, who probably knew that he would be right welcome, took care to put himself in Captain Maxwell's way just before dinner, when he was easily prevailed upon to remain.

Dinner was served at five o'clock, in as sumptuous a style as possible. Ookooma, the principal chief, was placed on Captain Maxwell's right, and Shayoon on his left; I sat beside the former, and Mr. Clifford next to the other; then came the two chiefs next in rank, and beside them two of the officers of the ship: the first lieutenant, Mr. Hickman, sat at the foot of the table, with Hackeeboocoo on his right, and Maddera on his left. They were all in high spirits, and eat and drank freely; and though they complained of the size of the glasses, and of the strength of the wines, tasted every thing from punch to champagne: the briskness of the last indeed surprised them not a little, and effectually muddled two of them for some time. Cheese was the only thing they all objected to, probably on account of its being made of milk, which they never taste. The interpreter not being present, the conversation was carried on through Mr. Clifford and Maddera,

partly by signs, and partly by a mixture of English and Loo-choo; but whether intelligibly or not, every body was talking. Maddera had dined so often on board the ships, that he was quite perfect in our customs; and upon this occasion took great charge of the chiefs at his end of the table, speaking sometimes in one language and sometimes in the other. Observing Jeema eating ham without mustard, he called to Captain Maxwell's servant, and pointing to Jeema, said, "Tom, take mustard to him." When the dessert was put on table, and the wine decanters ranged in a line, they exclaimed in astonishment, "Moo eeyroo noo sackee," six kinds or colours of wine; but the sweetmeats and prepared confectionary pleased them most of all.

After sitting about an hour and a half after dinner, and drinking with tolerable spirit, they rose to depart; but this they were not allowed to do, and they were informed that it was the English custom to sit a much longer time. They represented that the sun had set, and they would never be able to find their way on shore, but would all be drowned in attempting it. This alarming difficulty was easily obviated by a promise of the barge, and they sat down again. While this dis-

cussion was going on between Captain Maxwell and his guests, Maddera kept his seat, and looked about him in his keen observant way, to discover if he could, what was likely to be the issue of this adventure. Having observed that in general we were anxious to keep our company as long at table as we could, he naturally enough thought that we would not let this opportunity pass of entertaining the chiefs according to our peculiar fashion. He appeared to have settled this question with himself just as the chiefs resumed their seats, for rising half off his chair, and with a mixture of archness and simplicity, as if he had just made an amusing discovery, cried out in English, "When all drunk then go ashore!" Though Maddera, as will be seen, was not quite right in his guess, there was enough of truth in his remark to raise a general laugh among those who understood him; and he joined in this laugh at his own joke so heartily that it was some time before he could explain to the chiefs what he had said; they, being in a tolerably merry humour themselves, received it in perfectly good part, though their mirth was evidently dashed by a little apprehension of the fate which Maddera had anticipated for them.

The health of his Royal Highness the Prince

Regent was then drunk in a bumper, all the company standing in the most respectful manner. This was followed by the health of the King of Loo-choo, which was drunk with similar observances. On sitting down after the latter toast, the chiefs conferred with one another a few minutes across the table, and then all rose to propose Captain Maxwell's health; their wishes being explained by Maddera. When they sat down, Captain Maxwell proposed the health of Ookooma and the other chiefs, but when we in turn stood up to drink this toast, they rose likewise; nor was it till a good deal of persuasion had been used, that they consented to be seated while we were standing.

These four bumpers made all the party very merry, and it was now intimated to them, that as all the usual formalities had been observed, they might drink as much or as little as they pleased. They then lighted their pipes at Captain Maxwell's request, laughed, joked, and seemed so happy, that it was agreed on all hands, that conviviality was nowhere better understood than at Loo-choo. After a time, at our request, they played some games, of which we had heard them speak; the ultimate object of which was drinking; a cup of

wine being the invariable forfeit. That every thing might be strictly in character during these games, some of their own little cups were put on table. The first was this:—one person holds the stalk of his tobacco-pipe between the palms of his hands, so that the pipe may roll round as he moves his hands, which he is to hold over his head, in such manner that the pipe may be seen by the company, but not by himself. After turning it round for a short time, he suddenly stops, and the person to whom the bowl of the pipe is directed has to drink a cup of wine. Another is a Chinese game: one person holds his hand closed over his head, he then brings it quickly down before him with one or more fingers extended; the person he is playing with calls out the number of them, and if he guesses right, he has to drink the cup of wine. These and other games caused a good deal of noisy mirth, and at length it was proposed by them to go out, in order to look at the sailors who were dancing on deck. Before leaving the cabin, however, they showed us a Loo-choo dance round the table: Maddera placed himself at the head before Ookooma, while the others ranged themselves in a line behind him; he began by a

song, the air of which was very pretty, and nearly at the same time commenced the dance, which consisted principally in throwing the body into a variety of postures, and twisting the hands about. Sometimes the hands were placed flat together, at others separate, but generally the former; the movements both of the body and hands were regular and of a waving description. The head was made to incline slowly from side to side, so as almost to touch the shoulders; the feet were moved with a slight shuffling motion, with an occasional long sweeping step to one side and then back again; but the perfection of the dance appeared to be in the proper use of the hands and body. The words of the dance song were "Sasa sangcoomah, sangcoomee ah! sangcoomee ah! kadee yooshee daw;" when they came to the last word they all joined in the chorus and clapped their hands. Although Maddera was the leader both in the dance and song, he was occasionally joined in the latter by several of the others, the whole party repeating the last word several times over. In this way they went several times round the table. Maddera had so graceful a carriage of body, that his dancing, though somewhat fan-

tastical, was really elegant; his singing too was in good taste. The others danced clumsily, though in perfect good time, and joined with some spirit in the chorus.

As the ship was gaily illuminated, and the sailors were all dancing on the deck, the chiefs were much pleased with the scene, which was indeed a very lively one. After watching the dance of the sailors for a few minutes, Maddera, who, to use a common phrase, "was up to every thing," ran amongst them, seized one of the dancers by the shoulders, and pushing him on one side, took his place, and kept up the reel with the same spirit, and exactly in the same style and step as the sailors! The other dances were of course left off, and the whole ship's company assembling round Maddera, cheered and clapped him till the reel was over. The chiefs joined in the applause, seeming no less surprised than we were at Maddera's skill; for his imitation of the sailors' odd steps and gestures was as exact as if he had lived amongst seamen all his life. The officers then danced a country dance; after which the chiefs, unasked, and with a sort of intuitive politeness, which rendered every thing they did appropriate, instantly stepped forward, and danced several

times round the quarter-deck, to the infinite delight of the sailors.

On returning to the cabin to tea, they were all in high spirits, and while amusing themselves with a sort of wrestling game, Ookooma, who had seen us placing ourselves in sparring attitudes, threw himself suddenly into the boxer's position of defence, assuming at the same time a fierceness of look which we had never before seen in any of them. The gentleman to whom he addressed himself, thinking that Ookooma really wished to spar, prepared to indulge him with a round; but Maddera's quick eye saw what was going on, and by a word or two made him instantly resume his wonted sedateness. We tried in vain to make Maddera explain what were the magical words which he had used to Ookooma. He appeared anxious to turn our thoughts from the subject, by saying, "Loo-choo man no fight; Loo-choo man write—no fight, no good, no, no. Ingerish very good, yes, yes, yes; Loo-choo man no fight." Possibly he considered that Ookooma was taking too great a liberty; or, perhaps, he thought even the semblance of fighting unsuitable with the strict amity subsisting between us; but however this be, he showed that he had an authority of

some kind or other even over the senior chief, Ookooma.

Before they left the ship, Captain Maxwell, who had often remarked the satisfaction with which the chiefs received any attention shown to their children, ordered a large cake to be brought to him; this he divided into slices, proportioned to the numbers of the respective families of each. The chiefs, who were in a proper mood to feel this kindness, expressed themselves, as may be supposed, very warmly upon the occasion, and went away singing and cheering all the way to the shore.

20th of October.—The early part of the morning was spent at the Observatory. Afterwards we walked in the country without being observed, for the chiefs had not yet recovered from the effects of last night's gaiety: we had not gone a mile, however, before Jeeroo overtook us. Our intention was to gain the brow of a neighbouring hill, from which we imagined there must be a good view of the palace; but although Jeeroo was the most obliging creature in the world on every other occasion, he was resolute now in not letting us go far beyond our usual limits; we tried to over-rule his objections

by telling him that we should do no mischief, and would not go farther than the adjoining height. He would listen, however, to nothing; and as we still walked slowly on, he sent off a messenger for assistance, but before this reinforcement arrived, we had turned back, to Jeeroo's great relief. Although the object proposed had not been accomplished, we got a better sight of the palace than we had before obtained. It was so much inclosed by trees, that parts only could be seen, but it was undoubtedly a very large building. On returning we met Hackeeboocoo, the fat chief, puffing and blowing up the hill; he had set out to overtake us on being told by Jeeroo's messenger what we were proposing to do. He had drank a good deal of wine yesterday on board, and honestly confessed that he had been "weetee" (drunk), and that his head now ached very much. After he joined us, we passed near a village, near which we met two women at the turning of a road: they did not see us till within a few yards of us, and their alarm was so great, that they threw down the baskets, which they were carrying on their heads, and fled into the woods. Our two companions were very uneasy at this rencontre, and would not listen to our reasoning

upon the absurdity of their apprehensions, looking quite miserable till this interdicted subject was changed. We went afterwards to the high ground behind the hospital, in order to fill up by eye the edges of the reefs in our charts, for which regular triangles could not be taken in the survey. While I was thus engaged, Mr. Clifford endeavoured to learn from Jeeroo whether or not the King lived in the large house spoken of before; Jeeroo as usual denied any knowledge of the King, and could not be prevailed upon to say what the house was, or who resided there; a peasant, however, who happened to be along with us, was more communicative, and was giving all the information desired, when Jeeroo, observing what he was about, reprimanded him for his loquacity.

We never saw any punishment inflicted at Loochoo: a tap with the fan, or an angry look, was the severest chastisement ever resorted to, at least in our presence. In giving orders, the chiefs were mild though firm, and the people always obeyed with alacrity and cheerfulness. There seemed to be great respect and confidence on the one hand, and much consideration and kind feeling on the other. In these particulars, more than in any others that fell under our notice, Loo-choo differs from

China, for in the latter country, it is said, little of this generous and friendly understanding subsists between the upper and the lower classes.

On coming down from the height we found all the chiefs seated in a long room erected on the outside of the garden gate; they were very merry on the subject of last night's adventures.

21st of October.—While Mrs. Loy was employed at the well to-day washing clothes, at a moment when every body else was out of the way, she was visited by a Loo-choo lady, accompanied by a numerous guard of men. She described her as being about eighteen years of age, well dressed, fair in complexion, with small dark eyes, and not without beauty; her hair was of a glossy jet black, made up into a knot on one side of the head. She wore a girdle tied at the side, and had on sandals like the men. Mrs. Loy wished to examine her dress, but she shrunk back in alarm.

22nd of October.—Ookooma and Jeeroo came to the Observatory to-day, together with a number of the most respectable of the natives, who were desirous of seeing the reflected images of the sun in the artificial horizon through the telescope of the sextant. As this was placed on a stand, there was no difficulty in satisfying their curiosity, for they

had only to place their eye at the end of the tube, the angle having been previously arranged. Many of them were amused by the changes of colour in the reflected images by means of the different shades; others were more struck with the apparent motion of the two suns, which is very perceptible when a high magnifying power is used; a few endeavoured to understand the meaning of what they saw, but with the exception of Jeeroo, I think they had no conception of its cause. Jeeroo appeared to have some notion of astronomy; his idea of eclipses was more accurate than could have been expected. From him Mr. Clifford got the names of the days and months, and the various points of information respecting time, which will be found in the Vocabulary, printed at the end of the first edition.

Of their literature we could get but few satisfactory accounts; they say that they have but few books in their own language, the greater number on the island being Chinese. The young men of rank are sometimes sent to China to be educated. Jeeroo had been there when a boy. None but the upper classes understand the oral language of China, and the peasantry are in

general ignorant both of the spoken and written Chinese languages.

Whenever we were actually taking astronomical observations, the natives invariably remained at a considerable distance. They had been told that the least motion disturbed the surface of the quicksilver, and prevented our taking observations. They had much patience, and sometimes sat quite still and silent for several hours, till invited to come forward to look at the instruments. When Ookooma and Jeeroo came to us while we were at the Observatory to-day, we observed that they were in great distress, and upon our asking the cause, the former explained that Captain Maxwell during his ride this morning had fallen down, or rather that his horse, which was too weak for his weight, had fallen with him, and that his finger was broken: "Tayin ma tawrittee, Tayin no eebee ootee" (the Captain's horse fell, Captain's finger broke). A Loo-choo doctor, he said, had gone on board, who would soon cure it. We repaired immediately to the Alceste, where we found that the Loo-choo surgeon had placed Captain Maxwell's broken finger in a thick paste made of eggs, flour, and some other substance which he brought

along with him. He then wrapped the whole in the skin of a newly-killed fowl. This skin dried in a short time, and held the paste firm, by which means the broken finger was kept steady. The doctor went through a number of ceremonies, such as feeling the pulse, looking at the tongue, and so on. He had a box along with him, containing upwards of a hundred medicines.

Captain Maxwell mentioned, that while he was sitting in a shed after the accident, waiting for the boat to carry him on board, he was surprised to see a person enter the door crawling on all fours, and half dead with terror. This turned out to be the surgeon, who had been sent for by the chiefs, and who was horror-struck at the accident; but he soon recovered himself on observing that although Captain Maxwell's finger was broken, and one of the joints dreadfully dislocated, he was perfectly tranquil and patient.

Captain Maxwell's gentleness and forbearance, and his uniform attention to the wishes of the natives, and the great personal kindness which he had shown to so many of them, had very early won their confidence and esteem. As our intercourse became more intimate, these feelings having a good foundation, naturally became stronger;

and the concern which the natives felt upon this occasion was very generally and unaffectedly ex pressed, not only by Maddera and the chiefs, but by the lower orders, in a manner highly flattering to Captain Maxwell.

23d of October.—A deputation of the chiefs went on board the Alceste early this morning to say, that the Prince of the island, who was the next person in rank to the King, and heir apparent to the throne, meant to come on board the frigate this afternoon, as well for the purpose of paying a visit of ceremony, as of inquiring into the state of Captain Maxwell's health after the accident.

At noon a deputation consisting of the four senior chiefs, dressed in their best state robes and hatchee-matchees, came on board to announce the approach of the Prince, who in about half an hour afterwards was brought in a closed sedan-chair to his boat, through a concourse of people, to whom he seemed as rare a sight as he was to us. The state boat, which was a large flat-bottomed barge, covered with an awning of dark blue, with white stars on it, and having much the appearance of a hearse, was preceded by two other boats bearing flags with an inscription upon each; in the bow stood an officer of justice carrying a

lackered bamboo, and in the stern a man beating a gong. A vast number of other boats were in attendance, some bearing presents, others following out of mere curiosity. One of the Chiefs came on board with the Prince's card, which was of red paper forty-eight inches long, and eleven wide*, and shortly afterwards the Prince's barge put off from the shore; upon which the rigging of both ships was manned, and a salute of seven guns fired: when he came on board he was received with a guard, and another salute. Captain Maxwell, who had been confined to the cabin ever since his accident, desired me to receive the Prince, which I accordingly did at the top of the accommodation ladder, and there having been no arrangement made respecting this ceremony, I merely took off my hat and bowed; but all the chiefs fell on their knees the instant he came on the quarter-deck. I took his hand from

* The literal translation of the card is "Loo-choo nation, extender of laws, Great Person (called Ko), Heang, bows his head and worships," (the common visiting expression among the Chinese.) It ought to be remarked, that the Prince's name is placed not in the middle, but on one corner of the card, which is the most respectful mode, at least according to Chinese usage.

one of the chiefs who had assisted him up the ladder, and led him to the cabin.

The prince, when seated beside Captain Maxwell, made several anxious inquiries about his finger, expressing much regret that so disagreeable an accident should have occurred during his stay at Loo-choo. He then called to his pipe-bearer, and having prepared a pipe, presented it to Captain Maxwell, who returned him this compliment, by giving him one of his own. The usual questions as to our ages and families, and various other common-place and complimentary speeches, having passed, he said he had heard much of the wonders of the ship, and should like to see them himself; at the same time he rose and went to the globes, which he examined with great care. He begged to be shown Ingeree, Loo-choo, Quantoong (China); Niphon (Japan); Manilla, and Pekin. The chiefs would not sit down in his presence, and never spoke to him without kneeling. On his expressing a wish to look at the different parts of the ship, he was conducted all round the decks. He observed every thing with attention, but without betraying any great degree of curiosity: he had heard of the boatswain's

wife, and asked to see her; the lady, arrayed in her best dress, was accordingly presented to him: he stood for about half a minute looking at her with a sort of pleased surprise; and then, as if suddenly recollecting that this was somewhat rude, he drew his fan from his breast, and with an air of the utmost politeness, held it towards her as if to beg she would accept it, and upon Mrs. Loy curtsying in acknowledgment of the honour intended, he sent it to her by Maddera. He next asked to see the fire-engine worked, and appeared much gratified by seeing the water thrown to so great a height. He had heard of an African negro who was on board, and begged that he might be sent for. When this man, who was a fine specimen of his race, was brought forward, the Prince looked exceedingly surprised, and probably doubted whether or not the colour was natural, as one of his people was sent to rub his black skin with a cloth. Wherever the Prince passed, the natives, who had flocked on board in crowds, fell on their knees.

On returning to the cabin, the Prince was invited to a cold collation prepared for him in the foremost cabin: for a long time he refused to sit down, nor could we conjecture what was his ob-

jection; at length, however, he complied, while the chiefs, who were neither allowed to sit down nor eat in his presence, retired to the after-cabin. He tasted every thing which was offered him, but seemed afraid of the wines, having probably heard of the jovial proceedings of the 19th. In about half an hour he rose and went to the after-cabin; the chiefs and the people of his suite, to the number of fifteen, then sat down at the table which he had left, and soon made ample amends for the temperance and moderation of his royal highness.

As soon as they rejoined the party in the after-cabin, the official business was entered upon by Captain Maxwell's returning thanks, in the name of the English government, for the liberal way in which we had been supplied with every kind of refreshment, and for the various other kinds of assistance which had been rendered us. The Prince replied, that the King of Loo-choo was most anxious to do every thing in his power for the King of England's ships. Upon this Captain Maxwell observed, that being persuaded of this, he was very desirous of seeing his majesty, for the purpose of expressing in person his gratitude for the kindness we had received in this country. The Prince answered, that it was contrary to the

laws and customs of Loo-choo for any foreigner to be admitted to the king's presence, unless such stranger were expressly sent by his own sovereign, as the bearer of complimentary presents.

So solemn a declaration, from such high authority, was considered by Captain Maxwell as conclusive; and as nothing further could now with any propriety or delicacy be said on the subject, the hope of opening a communication with the court, which had been so anxiously desired, was at length reluctantly given up. The Prince, however, most unexpectedly, in a few minutes resumed the subject, by saying that an official letter would be written to the King of England, if Captain Maxwell would undertake to deliver it; his answer was, that nothing could give him more satisfaction than being made the bearer of such a communication: that although he had earnestly desired the honour of paying his respects to his Majesty the King of Loo-choo, yet from the moment he heard that it was directly contrary to the customs of the country, he had ceased to conceive himself entitled to such an honour. As soon as it was interpreted that Captain Maxwell was willing to carry the letter alluded to, and that he had relinquished his desire to see the King,

the Prince rose and pressed Captain Maxwell's hand between his, while all the chiefs fell on their knees in a circle round him, showing by the expression of their countenances, how great that anxiety must have been from which they were now relieved by Captain Maxwell's ready acquiescence with their wishes: the Prince in particular, who had hitherto looked full of anxiety, became in a moment quite cheerful and unembarrassed.

The inference from this curious scene is, that the real object of the Prince's visit was no other than to dissuade Captain Maxwell from urging his request to be allowed an interview with the King. We conjectured that the circumstance of his accident was merely made an excuse for paying a visit to the Alceste, in the hope that upon this occasion the remonstrances of a person of such high rank as the Heir Apparent to the throne, would be found to carry more weight with them, than any which had yet been tried by the chiefs.

But when the Prince again alluded to the letter, it appeared that although it was to be addressed to the King of England, it was to be written by the minister, and not by the King of Loo-choo. This altered the case materially, and

Captain Maxwell most respectfully informed the Prince, that such a letter as he described could not be received by him, as it would be an indignity to his sovereign to offer his majesty a letter written by another king's minister. The Prince at once seemed sensible of the propriety of what Captain Maxwell had said, and calling the chiefs round him, entered into a long discussion with them: at the close of which, he declared himself incompetent to decide upon so important a matter, but said that he would consult with the King, whose pleasure would be communicated in a few days. Captain Maxwell expressed his willingness to abide by his majesty's decision, as far as was consistent with the respect due to his own sovereign. The Prince seemed entirely satisfied with this answer, and said something to the chiefs, upon which they again fell upon their knees before Captain Maxwell, notwithstanding all his efforts to prevent them.

In the early part of the interview the present was brought in, or at least such parts of it as were capable of being thus displayed. The whole consisted of two bullocks, three hogs, three goats, and a quantity of vegetables and fruit; besides fifteen webs of the cloth of the island, thirty fans,

and twelve pipes. The Prince said he had sent a present to me, which I found to consist of half the above mentioned things. He shortly afterwards rose to take leave. The rigging was manned on his going away, and similar honours were paid him as were shown when he came on board.

This Prince's name was Shang Pung Fwee, and his title Pochin Tay Foo; he belonged to the highest of the nine orders of chiefs on the island, the distinction of which rank is a hatchee-matchee of a pink ground, with perpendicular rows of black, yellow, blue, white, and green spots. He was clothed in a robe of light blue silk, lined with silk of a lighter shade, over which he wore a girdle richly embroidered with flowers of gold and different coloured silks: in other respects his dress was like that of the chiefs. He appeared about fifty years old; his beard was full and white, and his figure well proportioned. In manners he was gentle and sedate, but occasionally a little awkward. Towards the close of his visit, when his reserve had in some degree worn off, we observed him smile for an instant, now and then, with a shrewd expression in his eyes, as if he was observing what was passing more narrowly than we at first suspected. It

was thought, by some people, that in making inquiries about different things on board, he had shown more discrimination than had been displayed by most of those who had preceded him; but upon the whole, there was certainly nothing very interesting about him besides his rank.

While the Prince was looking over the books and other things in the cabin, a picture of his majesty King George the Third was shown to him. As the interpreter happened not to be present, we could not immediately explain who it was intended to represent, till it occurred to us to join our hands together and bow to the picture in the Loo-choo manner: the Prince, with the characteristic readiness of his country, saw instantly what was meant, and turning towards the picture, made it a low and respectful obeisance.

His suite consisted of several chiefs whom we had not seen before, besides six personal attendants, two of whom always stood behind to fan him and to light his pipe. These men, who from their dress and manner appeared to be merely servants, derived a sort of rank from being about the Prince's person; for when the chiefs sat down to table after he had left it, these attendants stood by as if expecting to be invited to sit down also;

but Mr. Clifford, to whom Captain Maxwell had given the party in charge, having observed how particular they were with respect to the distinctions of rank, did not conceive it proper to ask them to be seated, till Jeema requested him to do so; still, however, suspecting some mistake, he applied to Maddera, who said it was perfectly correct, and they were accordingly invited to sit down along with the rest.

We had never been able to obtain from the natives any clear account of former visitors, and as the Prince was thought a likely person to be in possession of the desired information, various questions were asked him upon this subject. He said that a vessel had been here about twenty years ago, and that she went away immediately without holding any communication with the court. This must have been the schooner in which Captain Broughton visited Napakiang in July, 1797, after he had been wrecked in his majesty's ship Providence, on the island of Typinsan*. He said that he knew of no other

* See Broughton's Voyage, Book II. Chap 2. for a very interesting account of the natives of Typinsan, who appear to resemble the people of the Great Loo-choo Island. In Book II. Chap. 3. Captain Broughton gives an account of his visit to Napachan, (Napakiang.) He was received with great kindness by

stranger who had visited Loo-choo. On being interrogated as to the knowledge of other nations, he declared that they knew nothing of the people we called English or French, or any nation indeed but the Chinese, Corean, and Japanese. Something was said about Manilla, and from its not being very remote, it is possible that some communication may have existed between that place and Loo-choo. Their accounts, however, were vague and unsatisfactory, and it is not impossible that we ourselves may have first suggested the name, and afterwards ascribed the use of it to them; a natural and frequent source of error on such voyages.

Nothing, however, that occurred to-day, excited such universal interest as Maddera's full and explicit assumption of his long concealed high rank. He came on board to-day for the first time dressed in the robes and hatchee-matchee of a chief; and such indeed appeared to be his rank, that he not only took precedence of all our old friends, but during the discussion in the cabin with the Prince, maintained in every respect a

the inhabitants; who supplied his wants, but objected to his landing, and sent back to the schooner some of the officers who had been sent on shore to examine the town. We found Captain Broughton's account of the people quite accurate.

decided superiority over them all. While all the rest were embarrassed in the Prince's presence, and crouching on their knees every time they ventured to speak, Maddera, though always respectful, was quite at his ease, and neither in listening to, nor addressing the Prince, evinced the least embarrassment; so that we could not help fancying that he must have been accustomed to his society. It was no less remarkable, that the Prince referred much oftener to him than to any of the rest, and listened to what he said with far greater attention. Whether Maddera owed such distinction to his elevated rank, or to the ascendancy of his great talents, or to the accidental circumstance of his having had better opportunities of knowing our language and customs than any other of the natives, we could not pretend to determine: but he admitted, when interrogated upon the subject, that he had in fact often seen the Prince before, while all the other chiefs confessed to us, that until to-day they did not know him even by sight.

No sooner was the Prince fairly placed in his sedan chair and carried away by his people, than Maddera came on board, and entered with great good humour into all the jokes which were poured

upon him from all sides upon the subject of his newly found character. He declined telling why he had kept his rank so long out of sight, but it was sufficiently obvious we thought, that his main object had been to establish an intimacy with all the different classes on board the ships: in this he completely succeeded; for he had advanced gradually in his acquaintance, first with the sailors, then the midshipmen, next with the officers, and last of all with the captains. By this means he gained the confidence and good will of each class as he went along, and by rising in consequence every day, instead of putting forward all his claims at once, acquired not only substantial importance with us, but gained a much more intimate knowledge of our character and customs than he could have hoped to do in any other way. Our opinion of the other chiefs fluctuated from day to day; whereas our esteem for Maddera never suffered diminution. With a sort of intuitive and happy discretion, he always did what the event proved to be the most appropriate thing he could have done: and by laying claim to no knowledge or merit which he did not possess, but always keeping more in the back ground than his friends thought there was occasion for,

he was sure never to forfeit any good opinion which he had once gained.

24th of October.—Mr. Clifford went along with me to-day for the purpose of sketching the bridge, which, though not above three hundred yards from the landing-place, the chiefs have always objected to our examining. We took Jeeroo with us without telling him our object, which he no sooner discovered than he became quite alarmed, and sent off for Maddera, who came to us immediately, and upon learning that nothing further was proposed than a mere examination of the bridge, he said that we might go on; having first made us promise solemnly not to go any further. While Maddera was entering into these stipulations, I expressed some little impatience at his doubting our simple declaration that nothing more was intended than what we actually avowed; but he paid no attention to this, as his duty I suppose was imperative, nor would he leave us till the matter was arranged in his own way. As soon as he was satisfied on this point, he said something to Jeeroo and left us; but turning back again, he came up to Mr. Clifford, and whispered, "captain no sulky?" meaning, no doubt, to express his apprehension that I had been angry

at the stipulations so positively required by him. Mr. Clifford, having assured him that nothing could make me "sulky" with him, detained him to ask him what it was he feared? what he had seen in us to excite such dread of our going near the town? He replied, "Loo-choo woman see Ingeree man, Loo-choo woman cry!" He then left us; and Jeeroo, who remained in a boat close to the bridge while I was employed measuring and drawing it, was greatly interested by Mr. Clifford's account of the great age of our venerable Sovereign, and of the number of his family, which excited his astonishment and admiration. He talked quite freely while the topic was the King of England, but the instant that the slightest turn in the conversation was made towards the King of Loo-choo he drew up, and became impenetrable. "He did not know," he said, "how old he was, nor how many children he had;" in short, he seemed scarcely to admit that he had ever before heard of the King of his own country!

From Maddera, however, who had no concealments, we learnt afterwards that the King had only one wife, but had twelve concubines; he described him as being an old man, with seven

children. It was absurd enough that none of the chiefs would inform Captain Maxwell whether or not the Prince who visited the ships yesterday had any children; it is hardly possible that they could be ignorant of the fact; if so, they are kept strangely in the dark as to what passes in the palace, or if not, they carry their reserve on such royal topics to a singular length.

Polygamy is not generally allowed in Loo-choo as in China, the King being the only person permitted by law to have more than one wife: the natives invariably spoke with horror of the Chinese practice, which allows a plurality of wives, and always expressed great satisfaction when we told them that the English customs in this respect were similar to those of Loo-choo. The women, we have reason to fear, are not treated so well as might have been expected amongst a people so amiable and liberal in other respects. Women of the higher class are confined a good deal to their houses; and those of a lower rank appear to perform much of the hard work of husbandry. We saw many of them at a distance, carrying loads on their heads, and working in the fields. Maddera, in fact, told us, that the women were not treated with much indulgence, being even

denied the harmless luxury of fans; when met out of doors by the men, no notice is taken of them, whatever may be the degree of relationship or intimacy subsisting between the parties. Whether this be really as Maddera states it, or whether it were said merely to amuse us, the perseverance with which the women were kept from our sight is certainly very curious, and leads us to conjecture that the general practice of this island is at all times to seclude the women. The Chinese account of Loo-choo quoted in the Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses, vol. 23, states that the young men and women are allowed to marry by choice, and not, as in China, by a contract made without any personal knowledge of each other. We took every opportunity of interrogating Maddera and others on this subject, but as the question was always evaded, we fear that their practice in this respect is not so praiseworthy as that account would make it appear.

From the bridge we went to the top of the hill above the well, stopping by the way at one of the large horse-shoe tombs mentioned before, which resembled in all respects the tombs of China. On this similarity being pointed out to Jeeroo, he became anxious to explain that it was

a Loo-choo tomb, and not exclusively Chinese; meaning probably that Loo-choo persons were contained in it. He informed us that these tombs were not appropriated to a single body, or even a single generation, but were used as cemeteries by the same family from age to age. The bodies, according to his account, are put into coffins, and allowed to lie untouched for seven years, by which time the flesh has entirely decayed and dissipated; the bones are then collected, and being put into vases are preserved by the families of the deceased with great care.

Jeeroo sung several songs to us to-day, and spoke of their fondness for music; but we saw no musical instruments of any kind. The natives almost all sing, and we heard several very sweet airs, principally plaintive: they had also many jovial drinking songs, one of which we wrote down from their singing; it was inscribed on a drinking cup, and is as follows:

" Ty'wack koo, tawshoo, shee kackoofing,
" Chaw ung, itchee shaw, shooha neebooroo;
" Ting shee, you byee, chee taroo shoo ninnee
" Nooboo cadsee meesee carra shaw jeeroo
" Shing coodee sackee oochee noo shing."

The Chinese characters on the drinking-cup

were thus translated in China, " Tywack hoo *, inspired by a jar of wine, writes an hundred pages of odes, or verses without end. At the market town of Chaw-ung† he entered a wine shop to sleep. The Emperor summoning him to appear at this moment, he, in his haste to obey the summons, forgot to put on his upper garment, and rushing into the royal presence, exclaimed, 'I am the wine-loving immortal.' "

25th of October.—This being the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, the ships were dressed in colours, and a royal salute fired. This splendid exhibition of flags and streamers produced a great effect upon the natives; as they had never seen any other flags than the single ensigns hoisted on Sundays, this display of several hundred flags was well calculated to surprise and delight them. They were informed some days before that there would be certain ceremonies in honour of our king, and great numbers of people had assembled on the shore in consequence. This morning had also been fixed upon for returning the Prince's visit; accordingly we left the Alceste at one o'clock, forming a procession of four boats,

* A man celebrated in the Tung dynasty for his convivial disposition: he is known in China by the name of Jai-pe.

† The town of Chang-ngan in China, near the Great Wall.

each bearing flags. Captain Maxwell took twelve of his officers and young gentlemen, and six accompanied me from the Lyra, all dressed in full uniform. We entered the harbour, and landed at the same part of the causeway as before, where we found the chiefs in attendance, as on the occasion of our visit on the 23d of last month.

The Prince advanced a few yards on the outside of the gate, and having taken Captain Maxwell's hand, conducted him to the temple, where an ingenious device was adopted to preserve the etiquette, which requires that no persons but those of high rank shall be seated in presence of the Prince. The temple was divided into three rooms by ranges of columns, connected by moveable partitions, in such a manner, that when these panels were removed there still appeared to be three separate apartments, at least, the separation was enough to save the Prince's dignity, while, at the same time, no person in the other rooms could feel himself slighted by the exclusion, since the division by the pillars was merely nominal. The feast was sumptuous, consisting of twelve regular courses, besides tea and sackee. There were many new dishes, principally of meat, dressed in various ways in large bowls. It being necessary to make some return for the presents brought on board by

the Prince two days ago, Captain Maxwell gave him several pieces of scarlet and blue superfine cloth, as well as samples of every species of our manufacture, from the finest damask to the coarsest sail canvas; also a set of cut crystal decanters and glasses, and three dozen of wine of ten different sorts, with several books, and a number of smaller articles. He also stated to the Prince, that a cow and calf had been left on shore in order to be offered to the King as a small mark of our sense of the kindness which we had experienced. The Prince expressed much satisfaction at this gift, saying that the calf had become a great favourite with the natives. My present consisted of half the quantity of wine given by Captain Maxwell, a mirror taken from a dressing stand, samples of English stationary, Cary's map of England, an atlas, and a small brass sextant; which latter present I was induced to include from having often witnessed the wonder and delight which it had invariably excited at the observatory. Mr. John Maxwell, to whom the Prince had sent a present of cloth and pipes after he landed yesterday, gave him a spy-glass and a map of London; the map was coloured, and round the edges were the palaces, Greenwich Hospital, and other public buildings, all of which he ex-

amined with great attention. After he had looked over most of the things, and was satisfied with the explanations, he rose and said that a great deal too much had been given; to which of course we replied, that a great deal too little had been given, and that these things were not offered as being, in any respect, an equivalent for the supplies sent on board, but merely to show that we were grateful for the kindness and attention with which we had been received*. During

*LIST OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED AT LOO-CHOO BY H. M. SHIPS.

	Alceste.	Lyra.
Bullocks	19	8
Pigs	23	10
Goats	15	7
Fowls	216	102
Fish	29	12
Eggs	920	455
Bags of sweet potatoes	59	27
Squashes	34	14
Jars of Samchoo, each containing about fifteen gallons	6	3
Baskets of oranges	9	4
Bundles of gingerbread	8	3
——— Onions	16	8
——— Radishes	30	12
——— Celery	12	5
——— Garlick	8	4
——— Candles	7	3
——— Wood	16	8
Pumpkins	60	30
Baskets of vermicelli	7	3
Boxes of sugar	2	1
Rolls of printed linen	14	7
Bundles of paper	6	3

the time we sat at table to-day, the interpreter was hardly ever called in, as Maddera and Mr. Clifford contrived between them to explain every thing, if not as clearly as could have been wished, yet we conceived in a more satisfactory manner than could have been done through the medium of John the Chinaman, of whose fidelity we were never certain, and of whose discretion, taste, and delicacy in conveying our sentiments we had strong doubts.

The Prince, after dinner, rose and proposed the King of England's health, which was accordingly drunk in a full cup of sackee. In return, we gave the King of Loo-choo. As the surgeon had desired Captain Maxwell to drink no wine, we were very sober at the Prince's table; but at the others every art was used to circulate the sackee pot. Indeed, little persuasion was required, for the sackee, though not strong, was very good. Ookooma presided at the table occupied by the officers, and Jeeroo at that where the midshipmen sat.

Ookooma having remarked on board, that whenever the King's health was drunk, whether it was the King of England, or of Loo-choo, the cups were always freely emptied, took advantage

of this loyalty of sentiment, and gave "The King of Injeree's health" three or four times over, to which, of course, the officers were obliged to reply, by giving "The King of Loo choo" as often. Finding this manœuvre to answer so well, he carried it rather farther than is customary with us on similar occasions, for observing that the company were rather backward in eating some bowls of sweet rice-meal porridge, which had been placed before them, he stood up with his bowl in his hand, and calling out "King of Injeree health!" swallowed the whole mess, and invited the rest of the company to follow his loyal example!

The Prince seemed to enjoy the mirth of the other tables very much; he was himself more cheerful and conversible than when we first saw him, though he struck us as being naturally a silent man. Ookooma, by overacting his part as toastmaster, got, we thought, a little tipsy; for he came several times into the state chamber, where he talked a great deal louder than was fitting the occasion; but of this indiscretion the Prince took no notice. When Ookooma came near my chair, I whispered to him, "Ya weetee," (you are drunk;) he turned round, and affecting to be angry, called out, "Weetee nang!" (I am not

drunk;) but his voice and manner were in direct contradiction to this assertion. His subsequent behaviour, however, when the feast was over, was so orderly, that very probably he merely pretended to be tipsy, in order to suit what he might consider to be the taste of his company.

On rising to depart, the Prince led Captain Maxwell by the hand, not only through the gate, but about twenty yards along the causeway; here he stopped and took leave. Captain Maxwell availed himself of this public opportunity to repeat, for the last time, his sincere thanks, in the name of his government, for the numerous attentions and marks of kindness with which we had been honoured at Loo-choo. He requested that what he had said might be communicated to the King, and assured the Prince, in the most earnest and respectful manner, that all the circumstances of our reception and entertainment should be stated to our own government. Upon this assurance the Prince bowed in a manner which seemed to express his satisfaction at what was promised. Captain Maxwell next observed, that he felt, individually, so greatly honoured and obliged by the particular attention which had been shown to himself, and to the captain of the little ship,

that he hoped the Prince would deign to accept from himself a small mark of his respect and gratitude. He then took from his neck a small thermometer, set in silver, and presented it to the Prince, who leaned his head forward, and requested that it might be hung round his neck by Captain Maxwell's own hand.

This may be supposed a curious place to hang a thermometer, but we had learned during our intercourse with the chiefs, that some management of this kind was necessary whenever it was intended to offer them presents; for their extreme delicacy made them unwilling to accept any thing of value, lest it might appear in the light of remuneration for their hospitality. Whenever any thing merely ornamental, or of little value, was offered, and particularly if worn about the person, no objection was made to receiving it. It thus became the practice, as being the most convenient method, to tie the proposed gift by a ribbon round the neck; so that after a time, every one wore rings, seals, watch-keys, &c. ready for such occasions. The thermometer which was given to the Prince had particularly attracted his notice when he was on board the Alceste.

After Captain Maxwell had given his present,

the Prince turned to receive mine, upon which I put over his neck a cornelian seal, suspended by a ribbon, in the manner described above.

He was so delighted with these compliments, that he again took Captain Maxwell's hand, and led him along the whole length of the causeway through the crowd to the boat. He then stepped upon the top of the parapet to see us row away.

As soon as we had put off, the boats were assembled, and every one standing up, gave him three hearty cheers: the Prince, who looked quite amazed at this novel mode of bidding adieu, bowed several times, with his hands closed and raised to his breast. But the populace, who had observed nothing on board the ships but order and silence, were quite confounded with this unexpected uproar. The Prince remained on the parapet, and continued waving his fan to us as we rowed down the harbour, as long as we could see him. As the boats rowed in procession out of the harbour, all the chiefs ran along to the end of the causeway, where they continued, along with a vast crowd of natives, waving their handkerchiefs and fans till we were far from the shore. On every side, the rocks, trees, houses,

and boats, in short every spot was crowded with people, waving their fans and handkerchiefs, and cheering us as we went along. This brilliant scene had less novelty in it, to be sure, than that which we had witnessed at the same place on the twenty-third of last month; but it was even more pleasing, for we had now become acquainted with many of the individuals forming this assemblage, and felt assured that their expressions of kindness and respect were sincere. On the first occasion, the natives being ignorant of our intentions, were very greatly alarmed at our appearance; and accordingly, though much curiosity was shown, a profound silence and stillness prevailed over the whole crowd, very different from the friendly shouts and signs with which they greeted us as we passed among them to-day.

Precautions had been taken to prevent the ladies from indulging their curiosity as they had done on the first visit, not a female being seen any where.

Of the population of this island we know nothing satisfactory: the natives invariably pleaded ignorance themselves; and as we had no precise data, our estimates were made at random, and as

they never agreed with each other, it is needless to mention them here. From the south point of this island, to within five or six miles north of Napakiang, an extent of sixteen or eighteen miles, the country is highly cultivated, and is almost entirely covered with houses. All round Port Melville too there are populous villages, but the north, north-east, and eastern places are thinly peopled, and not cultivated to any extent. We saw nothing like poverty or distress of any kind: every person we met seemed contented and happy. We saw no deformed people, nor any who bore indications of disease, except a few who were marked with the small-pox. Most unfortunately we had no vaccine matter to leave with these people.

26th of October.—Last night both the Alceste and Lyra were illuminated; and at nine o'clock, after a royal salute and a *feu de joie* had been fired, a number of fire-works were let off from the yard-arms. An immense concourse of the natives, who had been apprised of our intentions, assembled on the shore, and were very highly delighted with this brilliant exhibition.

The sick, as well as the remaining stores belonging to the Alceste, were removed on board

this morning, and every preparation made for sailing. While employed in concluding the last series of observations at the observatory, Maddera joined us, having in his hand the sextant which I had given to the Prince yesterday. From what he said, it seemed that he had been ordered to make himself acquainted with its use: but a more hopeless enterprise, under such circumstances, could not have been proposed to any man. Maddera, however, was not a person to be daunted by difficulties; on the contrary, he resolutely persevered in trying to make observations with the sextant; and the more the difficulty was made apparent, the more keenly he laboured to overcome it. The progress which he made in a few hours in the mere practical operation of taking angles and altitudes was really considerable, but he was by no means satisfied with this degree of proficiency, and entreated to be taught how to apply it to some practical and useful purpose. With a sextant on a stand, I made him take the distance between the sun and moon, four or five times; on every occasion he was wonderfully near the truth. We endeavoured, however, to confine him to one subject, merely to ascertain the time of apparent noon; and I think we succeeded in

explaining to him how this was to be done. He broke off from his work repeatedly to express his regret at our approaching departure; in which friendly sentiment he was heartily joined by Jeeroo and the rest of the chiefs, who were quite out of spirits. Jeeroo, poor fellow, while we were thus employed, had prepared a handsome dinner for us under a tree near the observatory; and when we had finished observing, he invited all the chiefs to join us at his farewell feast. He made us drink what he called "wackarittee," or the parting cup, several times over.

We had a number of visitors besides at the observatory to-day, who looked on to see the instruments packed up, and sent off, with looks of real regret. They all said they were very sorry we were going away so soon. One man gave Mr. Clifford, as a farewell gift, a curious drawing of the Alceste, as she appeared on the twenty-fifth, dressed in flags, and executed, he said, by his son. Our little favourites, too, the children, were all much affected by our preparations; and the wonted hilarity of the lower classes was quite gone.

Having taken our final leave of the shore, we went to the Alceste, where we found the chiefs in

conference with Captain Maxwell; after this was over, he made each of the chiefs a present of a finely cut wine glass, which he knew they had long desired to possess. To Ookooma he gave a richly cut tumbler, inclosed in a red morocco case. This was much beyond his expectations, and perhaps his wishes, for he appeared to observe the wine glasses of the others with somewhat of a disappointed look. Captain Maxwell perceiving in a moment that Ookooma had set his heart upon a wine glass also, opened the case, and, as if it had been accidentally omitted, placed one inside the tumbler, to Ookooma's great satisfaction. Soon afterwards the whole party went on shore, saying, before they left the ship, that in the morning the Bodzes would come on board in order to perform some sacrifice: as they never came, however, it is probable that the interpreter misunderstood them, particularly as Isaacha Sandoo said to Mr. Clifford, "Acha hoonee nittee Doochoo mang hoonee oocooyoong." "To-morrow the ships will go, and all the Loo-choo people will pray for them, or wish them well;" which was probably all that the chiefs meant, although the interpreter reported that the Bodzes were to come on board.

While we were at dinner, Maddera came into the Alceste's cabin, for the purpose of asking some questions about the sextant. He had not been aware of our being at dinner, and looked quite shocked at having intruded; of course he was invited to sit down, but no entreaties could prevail upon him to do so; being determined, no doubt, to show that his coming was accidental. From the cabin he went to the gun-room, to see his friend Mr. Hoppner, the junior lieutenant of the Alceste, with whom he had formed a great friendship. Mr. Hoppner gave him a picture of the Alceste and some other presents; upon which Maddera, who was much affected, said, "To-morrow ship go sea;—I go my father house,—two day distance:—when I see my father, I show him your present, and I tell him,—me, Henry Hoppner all same (as) brother," and burst into tears!

At daybreak on Sunday, the 27th of October, we unmoored; upon which the natives seeing us take up one of our anchors, naturally thought we were going to get under weigh immediately, and give them the slip, without bidding them adieu; which was very far from our intention. The alarm, however, spread immediately, and

brought the chiefs off to the ships in a great hurry; not in a body, in their usual formal way, but one by one, as they could find separate canoes to paddle them from the shore. Old Jeema called on board the Lyra on his way to the frigate; he was a good deal agitated, and the tears came into his eyes when I drew a ring from my finger and placed it on his, in exchange for his knife, which he took from his girdle to present to me.

The other chiefs called alongside on their way to the frigate, but they went on when I told them that I was just going to the Alceste myself. In the mean time Maddera came on board, with the sextant in his hand; he was in such distress that he scarcely knew what he was about. In this distracted state he sat down to breakfast with us, during which he continued lighting his pipe and smoking as fast as he could; instinctively drinking and eating whatever was placed before him. After a time he recovered his composure in some degree, and asked me what books it would be necessary for him to read in order to enable him to make use of the sextant; I gave him a nautical almanack, and told him that he must understand that in the first instance: he opened it, and at-

tentively looking at the figures for a few minutes, held up his hands in absolute despair, and being at last forced to confess that it was a hopeless business, put the sextant into its case and bade us farewell. Before he left the Lyra he gave Mr. Clifford his pipe, tobacco pouch, and a crystal ornament; saying, as he held them out, "You go Ingeree, you give this to your childs." Mr. Clifford gave him a few presents in return, and expressed his anxiety to be always remembered as his friend. Maddera, with great earnestness and with the tears streaming down his cheeks, placed his hand several times upon his heart, and cried, "Eedooshee, eedooshee!" My friend, my friend!

To me he gave a fan, and a large picture of a man looking up at the sun, drawn, he said, by himself: he probably meant in his picture some allusion to my usual occupation at the observatory. After he had put off in his boat, he stood up and called out several times, "Ingeree noo choo si-bittee yootoosha," I shall ever remember the English people! When he went to the Alceste, one of the chiefs remarking that he had neither his hatchee-matchee on nor his robes, told him that it was not respectful to wait upon Captain Max-well for the last time, in his ordinary dress; par-

ticularly as all the others were in full array. Maddera, who, poor fellow, had been too much concerned about other matters to think of dress, was shocked at this apparent neglect of propriety, and went immediately to apologize to Captain Maxwell, who took him by the hand, and gave him a present; telling him, at the same time, that he was always too happy to see him, to notice what dress he had on.

On going to the Alceste, I found the chiefs seated in the cabin, and all looking very disconsolate. We tried in vain to engage them in conversation; but their wonted cheerfulness had quite deserted them: and, indeed, it was natural that they should be so affected, for (unlike their visitors!) these simple people could have had little experience of parting scenes.

I took this opportunity of giving each of the chiefs some trinket, as a farewell present, and they in return gave me their pipes, fans, and knives, accompanied by many friendly expressions.

Mutual assurances then passed between us, of being long and kindly remembered, and they rose to take leave; upon which Ookooma, who, as well as the others, was much agitated, endeavoured to say something, but his heart was full, and he

could not utter a word. The rest did not attempt to speak; and before they reached their boats, they were all in tears!

Maddera, who was the last to quit the ship, cried bitterly as he wrung the hands of his numerous friends, who crowded round him, and loaded him with presents.

While we were heaving up the anchor, the natives assembled not only in canoes round the ships, but in vast crowds upon the neighbouring heights; and as we sailed away, they all stood up, and continued waving their fans and handkerchiefs till they could be no longer distinguished.

THE END.

40°

120°

125°

40°

30°

30°

Track of the

ALCESTE and LYRA

in the

YELLOW SEA.

West Coast of Corea,

and

Great Loo Choo Islands,

1816.

Track of the Ships going towards

12th Sept.r

Sulphur I.
a Volcano

GREAT
LOO CHOO I.d

Napakiang

17th July

120° East Long.de from Greenwich

125°

Published as the Act directs Dec.r 1819 by John Murray Albemarle Street London.

J Walker Sc.

DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

Parting Scene, to face the title-page.

Corean Chief dictating a Letter, to face p. 19.

Loo-choo Chief and his two Sons, to face p. 113.

Loo-choo Priest and Chief, to face p. 190.

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